

1 | Spanish

1.1 | General Timeline

- Columbus travels in 1492 and first lands in the Bahamas. (1492-1502)
- Colonizes it and enslaves natives (1508-1513)
 - Population started at 3 million, and when he left it was 200
 - Art depicts the colonization project as very brutal (reminiscent of Hell)
 - Meta-imperialism
 - * England and France justify involvement by asserting that they must rectify the Spanish situation and "colonize" the area with their moral superiority
- Hernan Cortez conquers the Aztec Empire (1519-1521)
 - Very small force of men trumps a large Empire.
 - * Montezuma believed Hernan was a God so welcomed
 - * Epidemics were an issue
 - * Aztecs controlled many others and they turned on the Aztecs
 - Caused civil uprisings
- Conquest of Incas (1532-1672)
 - Existing civil unrest allows for easier time
- Spanish discover silver and this becomes a significant economic endeavour. (1540)
- St. Augustine happens in Florida

1.2 | Colonial Settlements

- Mostly coastal settlements.
- Controlled by Crown in a very strict fashion
- Every settlement had three things
 - Mission: a church (major focus on converting natives to Catholicism)
 - Presidio: a fort
 - Pueblo: a town
- Goal was to be self-sufficient and send money back to mother country.
- Mercantilism
 - For economic success, a country should produce their own goods
 - Very restrictive
 - * Spanish colonies could only send their good and trade with mother country
 - * Some smuggling (pirates)
 - Spain was a pioneer in this regard, other powers copy this
- Strict caste hierarchy in colonies

- Recognized all the races and had places for them in the hierarchy
 - * *in a bad way*
- Spanish California
 - Last project, sparked by Russian competition

1.3 | Weaknesses

- Stretched thin geographically
- Mercantilism is a weakness (no trade with others limits profitability)
- Static social hierarchy limits incentives

2 | French

- Trade over settlement
 - Focus on fur and pelts
- Places Quebec and Louisiana
- Only allowed Catholics to settle
 - Mostly men who wanted to go back
- Push for conversion but unlike Spanish sent Jesuits to live alongside natives
 - Incentivized conversion via trade deals for catholic natives
- Good relations with natives was somewhat concerning for loyalty
 - Led to permanent settlement in New Orleans

3 | English

- Blessing of crown but mostly private ventures
- Settlers were religious dissidents, beggars, ex-convicts
- Not motivated by conversion
- Looking to settle permanently
 - Many settled families
- Royal governor, self appointed councils
- Large numbers compared to other powers