

Sean Gordon

Arch 321

Module 1, Lecture 1 Response

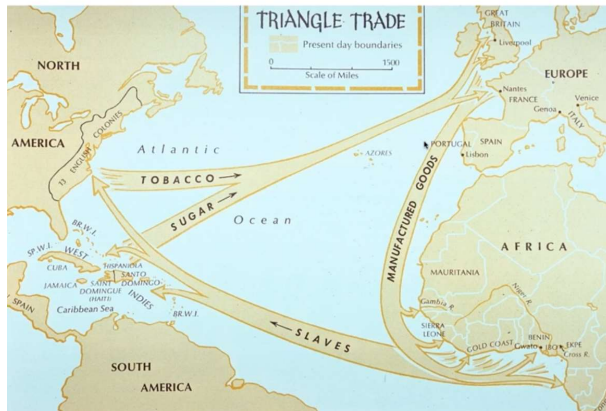
This lecture focused on the foundation and development of early North American cities, and the reasoning behind their location and layouts.

Rather than just coming from Britain like is often assumed, there were many Dutch, French, Spanish, and Swedish colonists as well. The early colonists were mainly of the merchant class and, rather than building large agrarian settlements, were looking to develop more urban settlements for the exchange of goods and services. Because of this, location near large water sources was essential, as they were used heavily for the transportation of goods and people. This is seen in the early settlement's proximity to water, and the commonality of roadways perpendicular to the waterfront for easier loading of goods straight to and from the water.

The lecture then touches on why Middle Age cities like Cahokia failed due to the lack of modern city infrastructure like plumbing and agriculture techniques. It then continues to the different types of settlements created later, and the reasonings behind their locations and layouts. There were smaller, more basic villages without much fortification like Plymouth, that lack the economic driver to grow larger, to those like Augustine with large fortifications and a semi-planned central layout. Even later, cities like Boston showed again the overwhelming importance of the water with the growing harbor space and exclusive location on a peninsula. Cities eventually began being planned, like Margravate of Azilia (never built) or Savannah Ward, that consisted of a duplicating pattern of squares called wards.

"Triangle" trade – raw materials, finished goods, human slaves

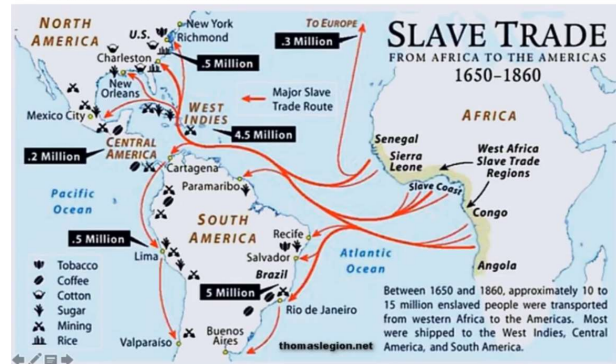
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Slave trade. 200 Years (1650-1860) 10-15 million people stolen to the Americas.

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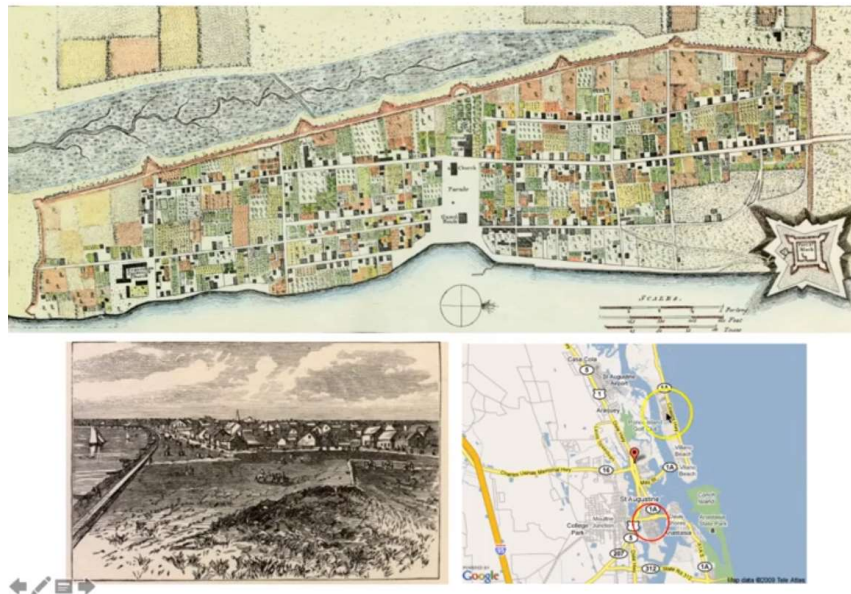
5 million slaves went to Brazil
4.5 million to the West Indies
500,000 to the Colonies/United States



I appreciate the diagram of the triangle trade, which easily shows why early colonies didn't stray from the right edge of the North American colony. The slave trade mainly coming from Africa provided the manual labor required for expansion, and the trade of goods to Europe provided money.

St. Augustine, Florida, 16th-17th century (under British Rule by 1763)

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I like how well this diagram outlines the development style of the earlier settlements, with the fortification wall and the fort separating the outer agricultural ring from the central housing, the central plaza, and the settlement's direct proximity to water.