

Source: [KBhHIST201RiseOfEurope1500](#)

## 1 | Europe's Western Takeover

### The Takeover

- Expanded towards Mexico, Peru, and Cuba — generally weaker nations to whom having artillery is like gods #why #really?
- Capitalized upon the lands with absolute control, and discovered silver from the Potosí mines... Bringing rapid growth and [KBhHIST201ProblemsWithSilver](#) Problems with Silver
- Unlike [KBhHIST201ZhengHeSeafaring](#) Zheng He + Africa, Europeans came to the Americas and *stayed there* with a government and army and all
- Colonies are less influenced by internal wars than are actual countries themselves

### The Impact

- Switch to emphasis on trade of staples instead of valuables
- Many American crops (Maize, Indigo) and American-Grown crops (tobacco, rice, sugar) helped spark the economy and increase overall value
- Growth in employment and growth for large trade city (London, Bristol, Antwerp, Amsterdam)
- Expansion into Russian regions also added additional value
- Increased rivalry between European states brought increased competition and development
  - Added technology
  - Novel skills and industries
  - Increased emphasis on reasoning + science
- After a while, it became generally difficult for old-world powers to expand and regain control

The lack of economic and political rigidity would imply a similar lack of cultural and ideological orthodoxy—that is, a freedom to inquire, to dispute, to experiment, a belief in the possibilities of improvement, a concern for the practical rather than the abstract,