



- Il Redentore , Venice (1577-1592).
- A Catholic Church
- Designed with input from Marc'Antonio Barbaro, a Venetian diplomat who had served in Constantinople (1568-1574).
- Bell towers are reminiscent of Ottoman imperial mosques' minarets.
- Dome and luminous interior said to be influenced by the work of Mimar Sinan (1488/1490 –1588), the chief architect of the sultans and famed architect of the Suleiman Mosque



Suleiman
Mosque,
Istanbul,
exterior and
interior



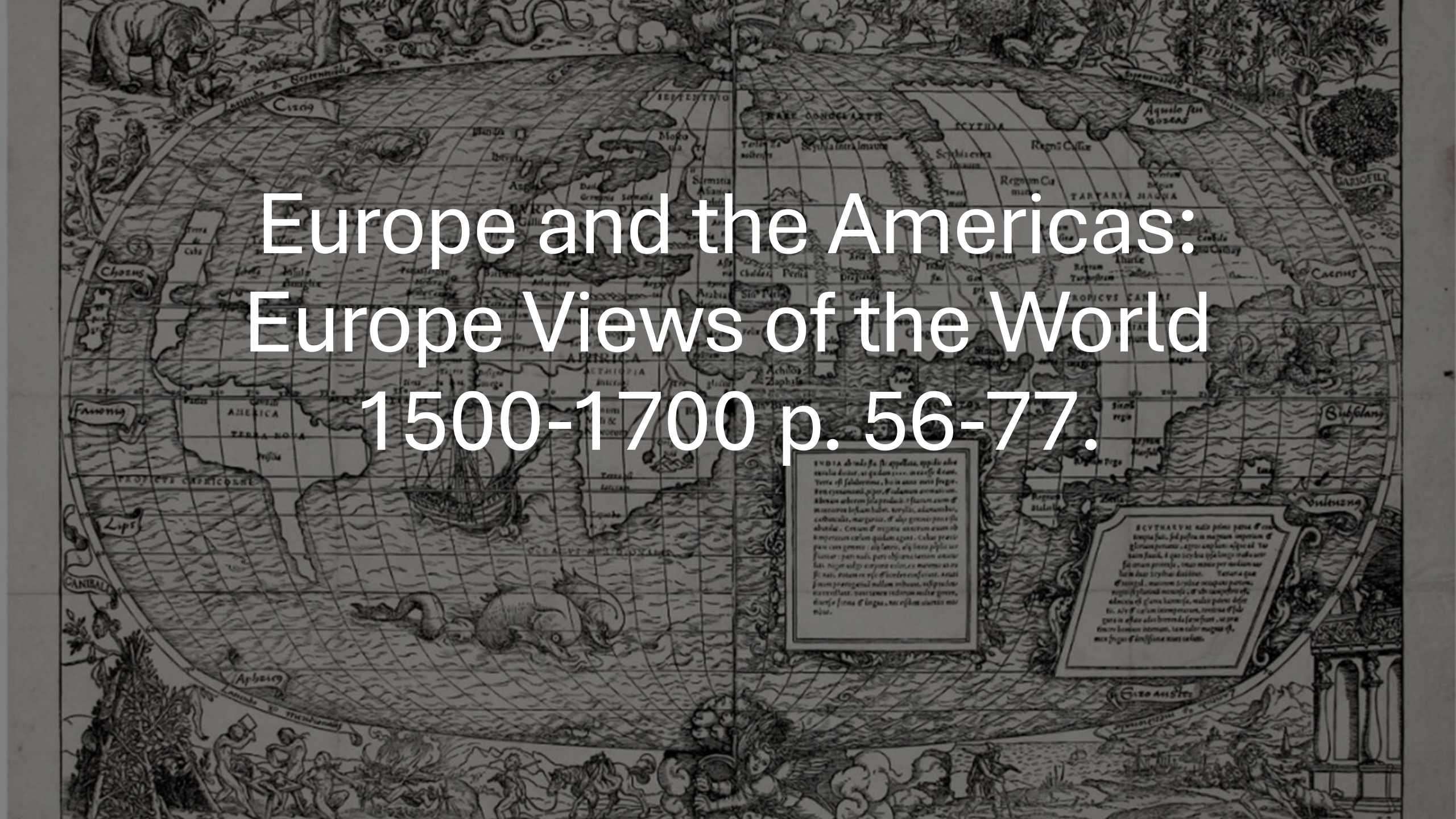
- Painting by Lorenzo Lotto: “The Alms of St. Anthony” (1540-1542)
- Can you spot the Turkish Carpet?



The Ambassadors, by Hans Holbein
(1533)



Madonna and Child
Enthroned with Saints by Domenico Ghirlandaio ,
(1484)



Europe and the Americas: Europe Views of the World 1500-1700 p. 56-77.

Discussion

- Larry Silver cites several woodcuts from the 16th Century that purport to describe the American continents and their inhabitants.
 - In your discussion with your group, identify and note down any recurrent themes in the woodcuts.
 - Now select any one of the woodcuts and discuss how some of the recurrent themes that you have identified are reflected in it,
 - Discuss how the themes in your selected woodcut could have been used to justify European's colonization, enslavement, exploitation of resources, forced christianization and other forms of dominance over the Indigenous peoples in the Americas



1.

AMERICA.

Americen Americus retexit, Semel vocavit inde semper excitam.

Epistemicide

- *“The destruction of knowledge (besides the genocide of indigenous people) is what I call epistemicide: the destruction of the knowledge and cultures of these populations, of their memories and ancestral links and their manner of relating to others and to nature. Their legal and political forms – everything – is destroyed and subordinated to the colonial occupation”*

(Boaventura de Sousa Santos. “Epistemologies of the South and the future1” FROM THE EUROPEAN SOUTH 1, 2016, 17-29)

Precolombian Civilizations



Mayan governor's
palace (10th
Century)



Palace of Palenque,
Chiapas, Mexico, 7-8th
century



Tikal, ancient
city in
Guatemala (3-
9th century)

Devastation through disease and enslavement



Image from the Florentine Codex,
(16th Century) Florence,
Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana

Devastation through disease and enslavement



Cuba's indigenous Taíno people were extirpated shortly after the Spanish conquest in 1511 (Credit: Christopher P Baker)

Epistemicide in the Americas

- Pillaging of religious objects and artisanry.
- Invalidation of Indigenous ways of knowing.
- Invalidation of religious and other cultural practices.
- Imposition of European perspectives in all areas of life.
- Destruction of ecosystems through extractivist industries.
- Destruction of local industries and economic systems.
- Displacement of people .

Abya Yala

- Abya Yala is the name by which some Indigenous people refer to the Americas.
- It is from the language of the Kuna, a Indigenous group in what is now Colombia and Panamá
- It means Mature Earth, Living Earth and Flourishing Earth
- It was proposed by Bolivian Aymara leader Takir Mamani (1933-) as an alternative to the Western name:
 - “To refer to our cities, our towns and our continents by a foreign name is equivalent to subjugating our identity to the will of our invaders and their offspring.” (“Abya-Yala: una editorial para los indios” p. 39).
- Today many Indigenous people and activists embrace the name Abya Yala as a symbol of identity, solidarity and pride.