

IDE 301: American Literature I

FALL 2019-2020

WEEKS 2, 3, 4: INTRODUCTION

Dr. Özlem TÜRE ABACI

Colonialism

- ***Colonia***- Latin «farm» and «settlement»; (*OED*)
- the Roman Empire: «Romans who settles in other lands but still retained their citizenship»
- «the conquest and control of other people's land and goods»

Edward Said's Definition of Colonialism and Imperialism

- **Imperialism:** «the practice, the theory and the attitudes of a dominating metropolitan centre ruling a distant territory»
- **Colonialism:** «a consequence of imperialism, the implenting of settlements on a distant territory»

- **Colonial period:** under the control of an imperial power;
- **Post-colonial period:** after the independence of the once colonized nations;
- **Neo-colonialism:** still exploited by today's powerful states;

“Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.”

Chinua Achebe

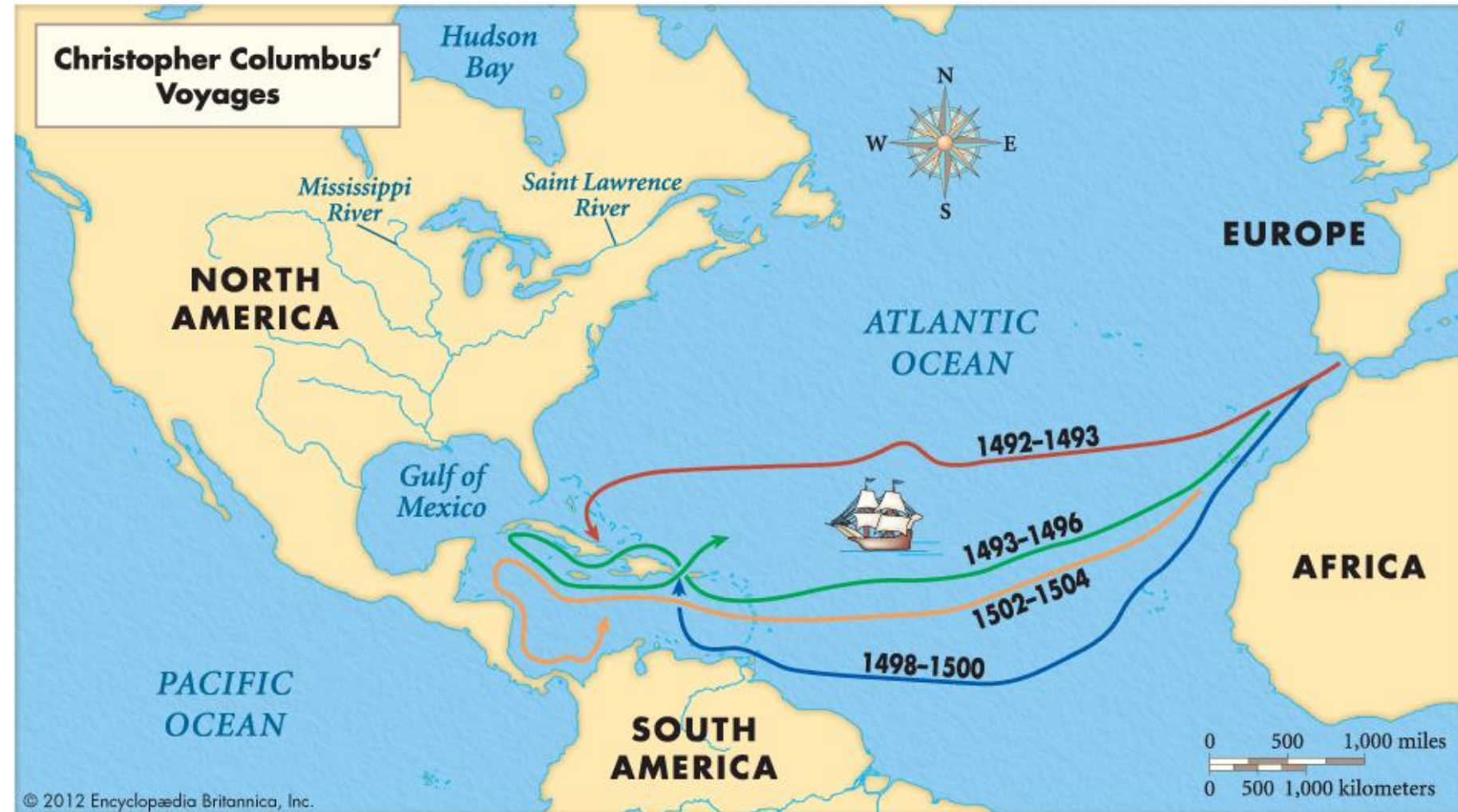
Read Kelleter p. 101

The only people who see the
whole picture are the ones who
step out of the frame.

Salman Rushdie (Indian-born British writer)

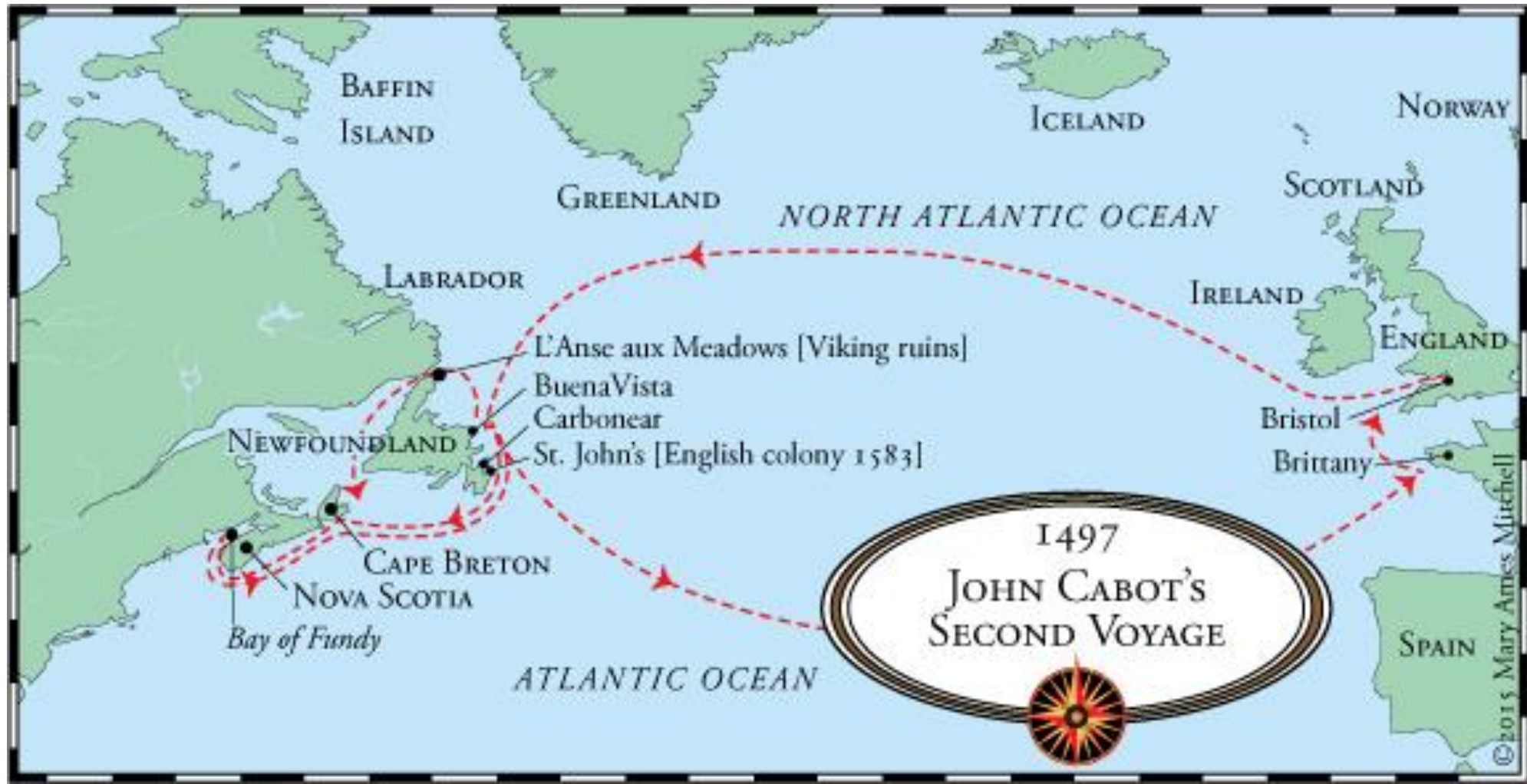
History of (the so-called) discoveries&explorations

- 1492-
Columbus
lands in
America



Read Kelleter p. 101

1497- John Cabot's British claim in Canada Henry VII



Amerigo Vespucci (1501-1502 Expedition)

Martin Waldseemüller (1507)

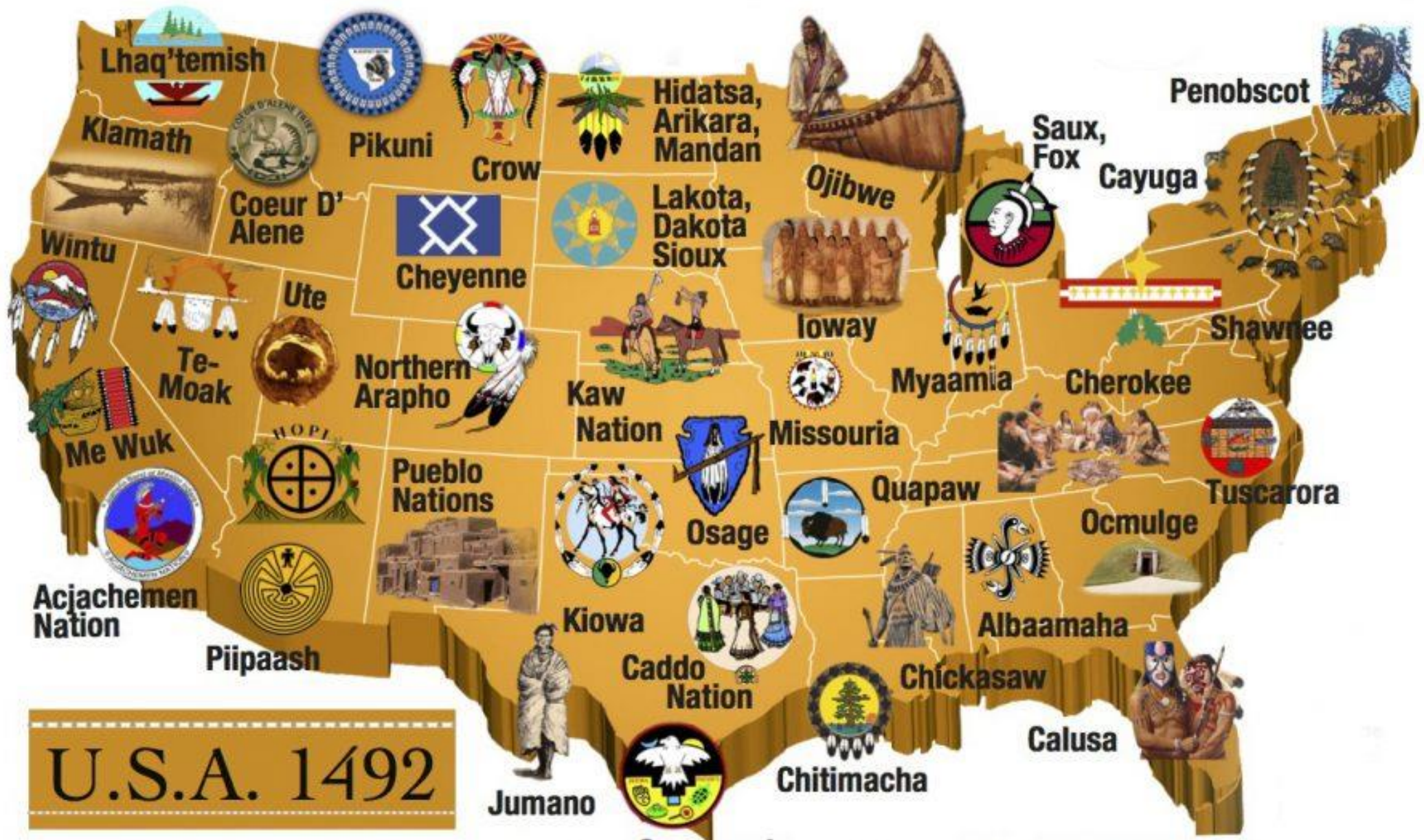
«from Amerigo the discoverer...as if it
were the land of Americus or America»

British colonization

- «latecomer» (diff. From Spain, Portugal, France);
- radical Protestantism;
- failed attempts;
- «financing joint-stock companies & granting royal charters»

Read Kelleter p.102

Native American tribes before European Contact: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ht0FW7RwRmc>

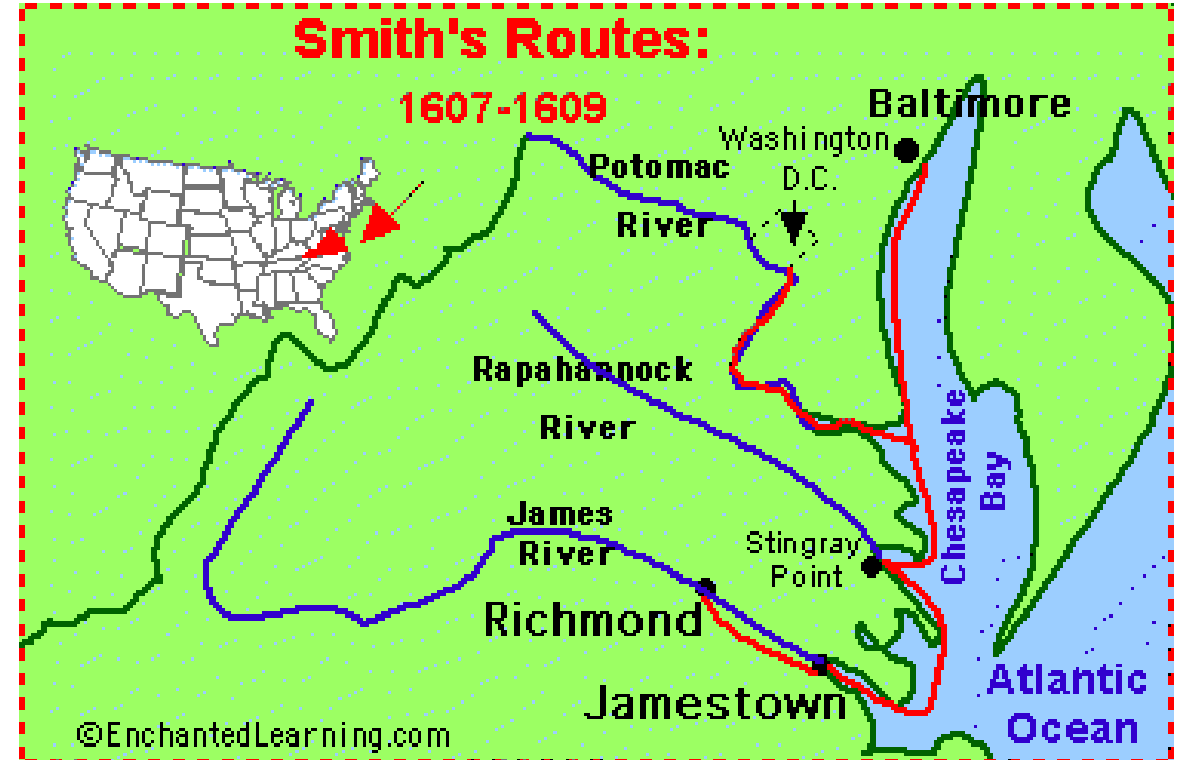


U.S.A. 1492

The resolution in the 1977 Geneva Protocol

«**Brutal colonization** paved the way for the plunder of their land and resources by commercial interests seeking **maximum profit**. The **massacre of millions of native peoples for centuries** and the continuous **grabbing** of their land deprived them of the possibility of developing their own resources and means of livelihood. The **denial of the self-determination** of indigenous nations and peoples **destroyed their traditional value system** and their social and cultural fabric.»

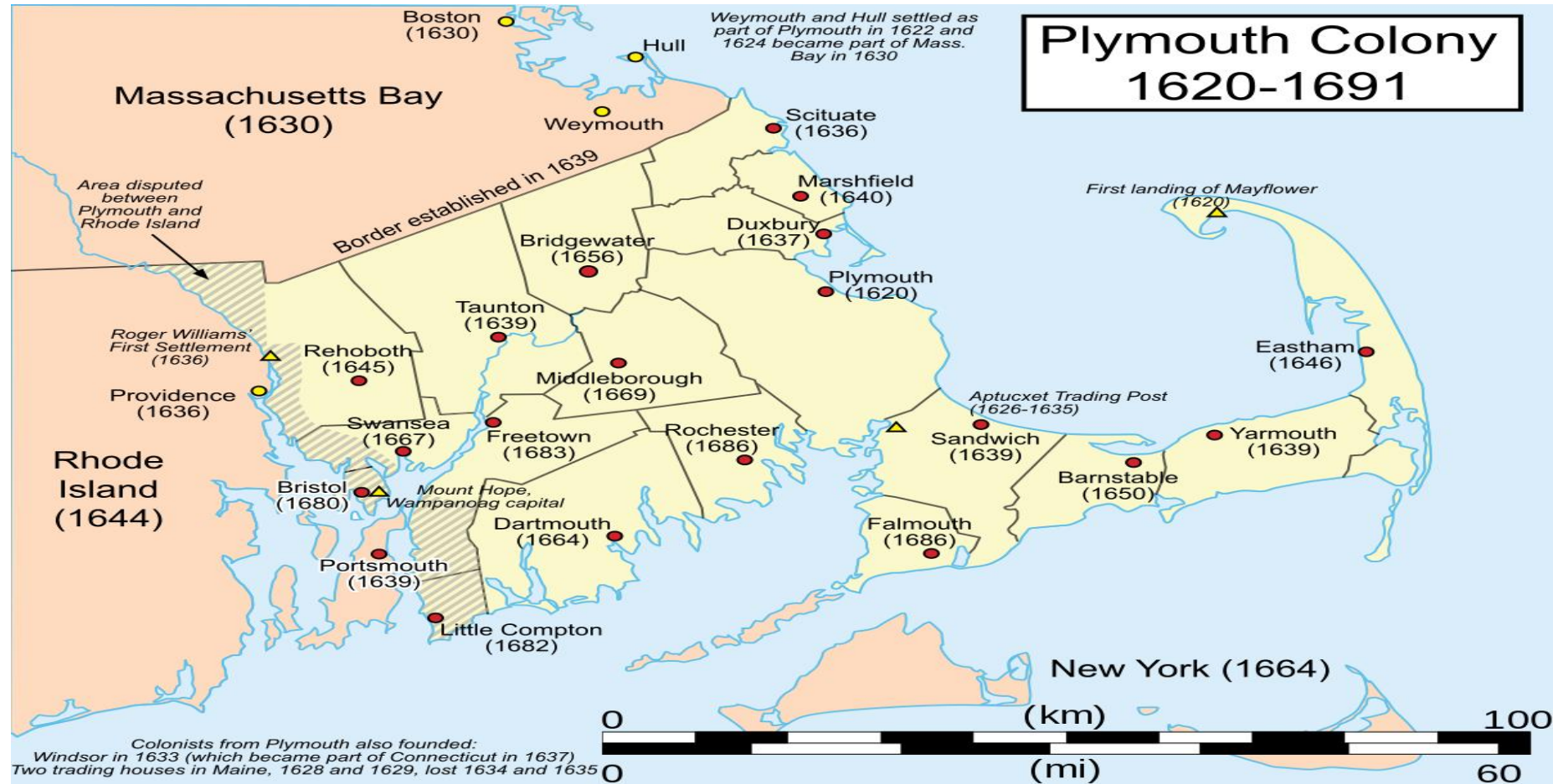
1607 Jamestown- First permanent English settlement founded



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a33Fuz8wKDA>

1620- Plymouth Plantation in New England

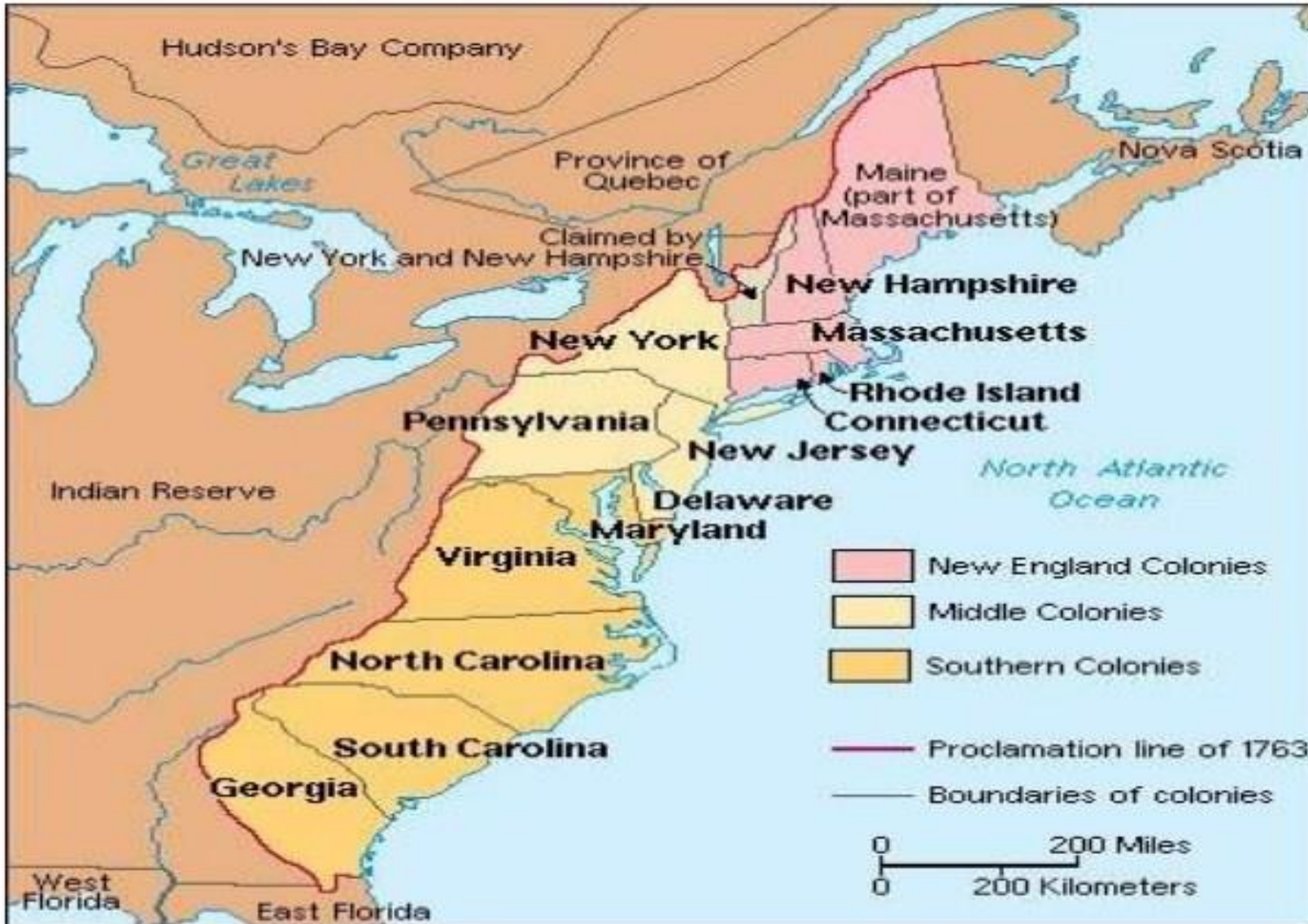
The Pilgrims



1630- Massachusetts Bay Colony



The 13 American Colonies



- New England
- The Middle Colonies
- The Southern Colonies

The New England Colonies

- The Puritans in Plymouth;
- «purifying the Church of England»
- simplify the forms of worship and abolish ritual;
- strict code of morality and proper behaviour;
- sermon popular as a literary form;
- studying the Bible;
- non-separatist Puritans in Massachusetts;

The Middle Colonies

- Nicknamed, «bread colonies»
- grain, the major crop;
- ethnically diverse: Dutch, Swedish, German, French;
- great inland waterways;
- agriculture, manufacturing, commerce;
- Quakers- (simplicity, truth, peace)
- less conflict with the Indians, even purchased lands;

The Southern Colonies

- Mainly farmers;
- large plantations;
- the need for huge work force;
- masters vs. slaves;
- religion not a dominating influence;
- less writing than New England colonies;

American Literature of the Colonial Period

- Survival stories;
- conveying information;
- persuading readers;
- recording events;
- invoking God;
- setting: the New World environment;
- establish a Christian commonwealth- utopian
- Common genres: colonial sermons, diaries, travel narratives, historical accounts.

Common tropes of colonial texts

- Encounter with the natives of the land;
- a strong sense of mission given by god («White man's burden»);
- exotic plants, animals;
- the unknown (flora, fauna, weather)
- the theme of menacing wilderness;
- promise of tremendous wealth;

Ronald Reagan

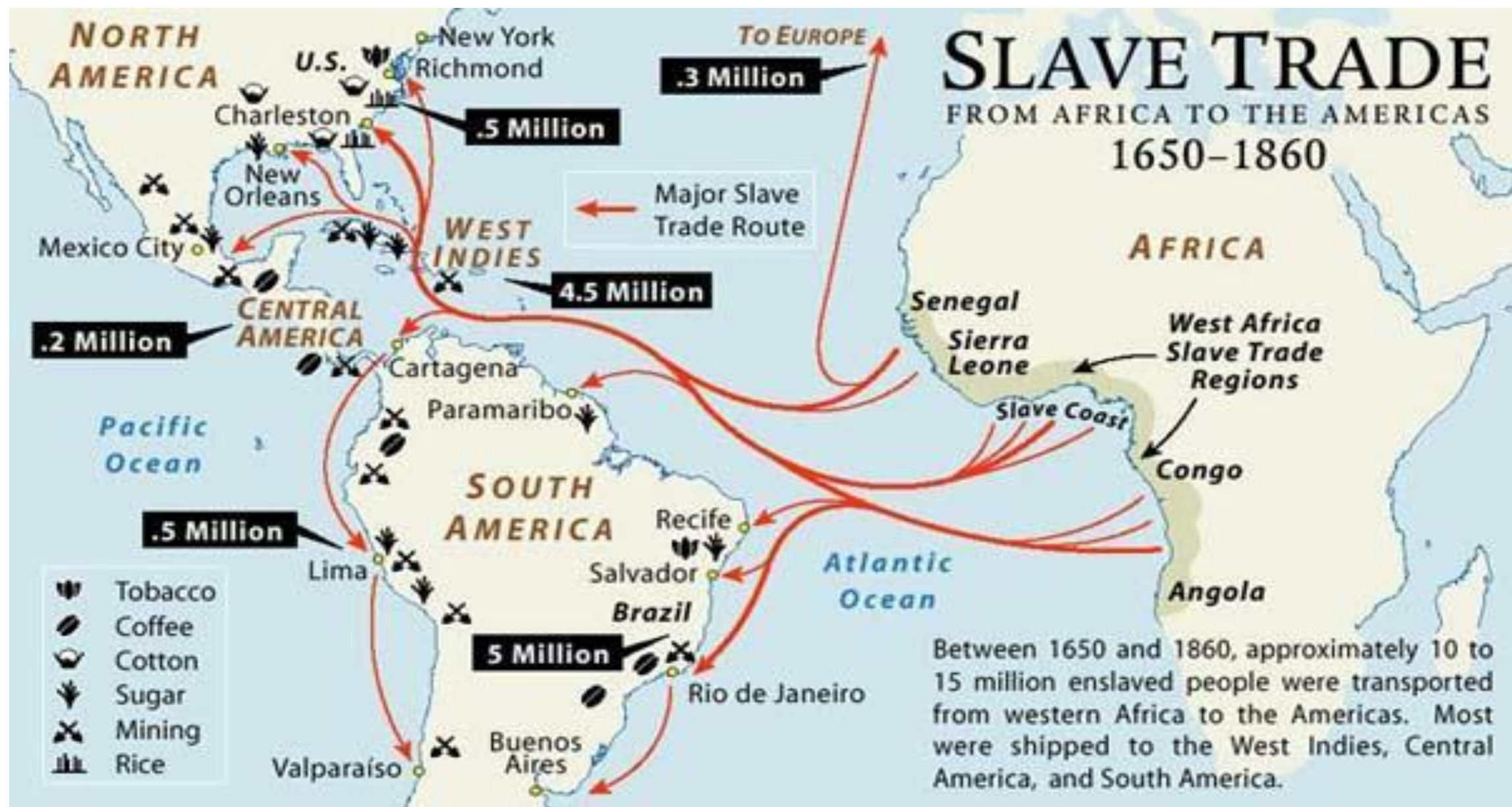
‘America is a country whose people have always believed we had a **special responsibility to try to bring peace and democracy to others in the world**’.

George Bush

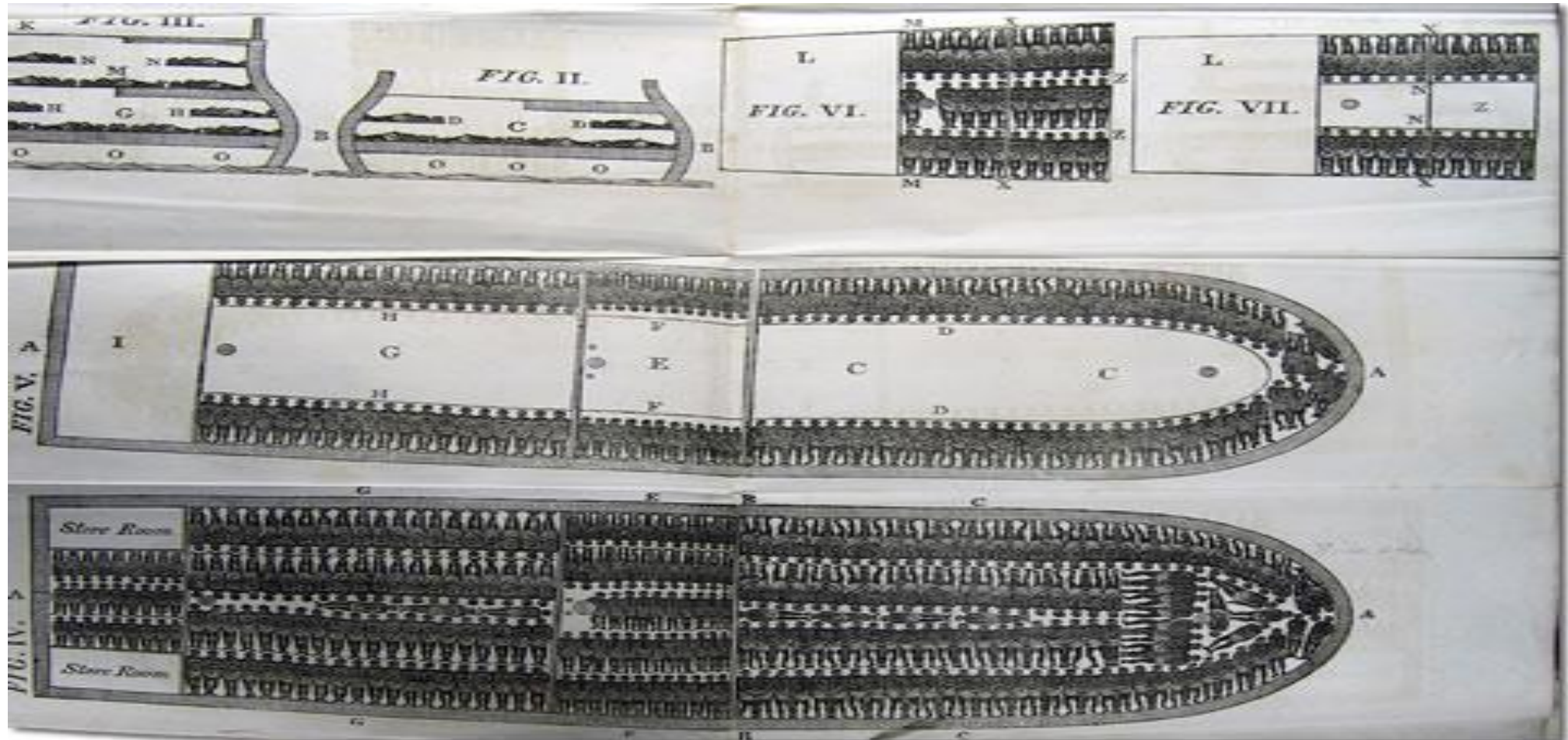
‘the strength that has
made America the
beacon of freedom in a
searching world’

George W. Bush

‘brightest beacon of
freedom [...] in this
world’.

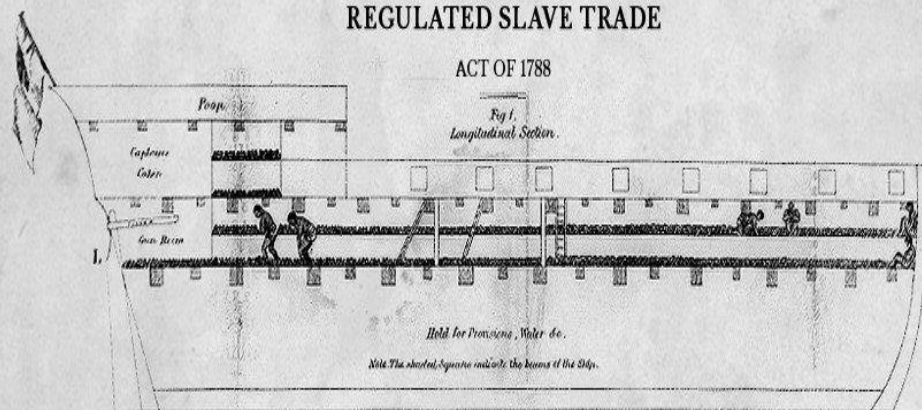


The Slave Cargo

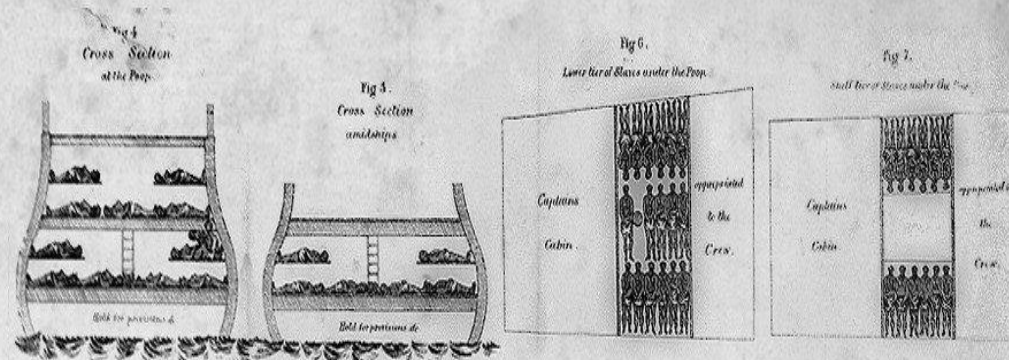
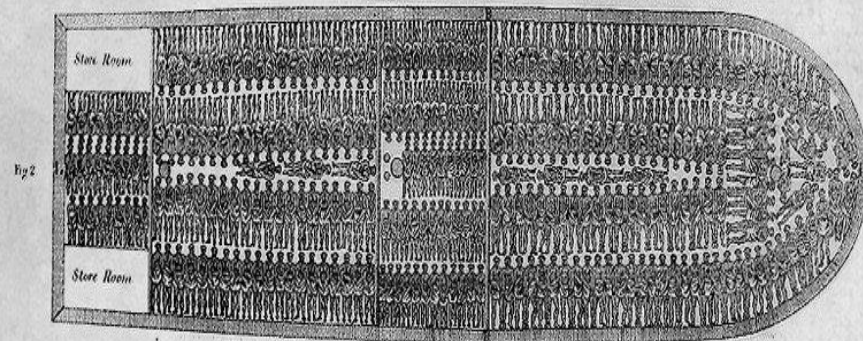


STOWAGE OF THE BRITISH SLAVE SHIP "BROOKES" UNDER THE REGULATED SLAVE TRADE

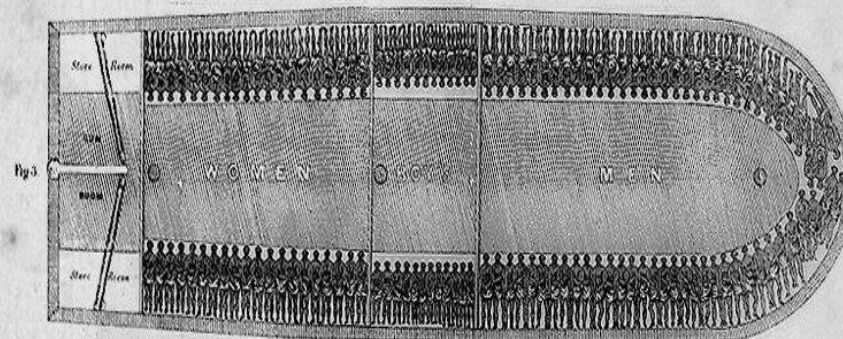
ACT OF 1788



PLAN OF LOWER DECK WITH THE STOWAGE OF 292 SLAVES
130 OF THESE BEING STOWED UNDER THE SHELVES AS SHEWN IN FIGURE B & FIGURE 5.



PLAN SHEWING THE STOWAGE OF 130 ADDITIONAL SLAVES ROUND THE WINGS OR SIDES OF THE LOWER DECK BY MEANS OF PLATFORMS OR SHELVES (IN THE MANNER OF GALLERIES IN A CHURCH) THE SLAVES STOWED ON THE SHELVES AND BELOW THEM HAVE ONLY A HEIGHT OF 2 FEET 7 INCHES BETWEEN THE BEAMS AND FAR LESS UNDER THE BEAMS.



Captured Africans bound
for the slave market

