

# Chapter 25 - New Worlds: The Americas and Oceania

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## Colliding Worlds

- Europeans brought new technologies to the new world but also exploited indigenous peoples.
- Introduced new diseases that devastated native societies, and trade interests led them to conquer various American empires.

## The Spanish Caribbean

### The Taino

- Most prominent people in the Caribbean, where the first Euro-American interaction took place.
- Spanish shut them up with glass, beads, and metal tools that kept them off their backs initially.

### Spanish Arrival

- Columbus and immediate successors made the Caribbean the base of operations for Spain.
- Settlers exploited native Taino to dig gold under the *encomienda* system - Spanish could exploit the workers but had to provide health/welfare services and attempt to convert them to Christianity.
- Began in 1498, and by 1515, Taino populations were in decline due to social disruption and physical abuse.

### Smallpox

- Smallpox caused a devastating epidemic in 1518 that killed many Taino, population plummeted from the millions into the thousands within 30 years.
- Its spread was encouraged by Spanish system because they sent people to capture more distant, not-yet-ill Taino which spread the disease further.
- The societies died with the Taino.

### From Mining to Plantation Agriculture

- Gold was not as plentiful in the Caribbean and other Spanish explorers found tons of silver in Mexico and Peru.
- 1640s - French, English, and Dutch settlers came to Caribbean to establish plantations, using African slaves as labor due to lack of extinct native populations.

## Conquest of Mexico and Peru

- Spanish explorers toppled Aztecs (Cortes) and Inca (Pizarro) and put imperial regimes in their place.
- Very different native societies than in the Caribbean, with means of collecting taxes/tribute, public labor, as well as political hierarchy and could mobilize massive populations.

### Hernan Cortes

- Led conquest of Mexico in search of gold, invaded Tenochtitlan in 1519 and took control in 1521.
- European advantage: they had steel swords, muskets, cannons, and horses, but this would not have been enough to topple the densely populated society.
- Cortes took advantage of native enemies of Aztecs to provide reinforcements.

### Epidemic Disease

- Smallpox ravaged city of Tenochtitlan, killing tens of thousands of inhabitants and disabling defensive forces.
- Smallpox also expanded through Mexico and destroyed Aztec society; this rapid depopulation facilitated the conquest of Mexico.

### **Francisco Pizarro**

- Pizarro had similar results as Cortes with Spanish expedition from CenAm to Peru.
- Pizarro exploited Inca ruling house struggle (Huascar and Atahualpa) to take the Incan capital at Cuzco, and then looted it mercilessly.
- Dishonest means: gathered Inca ruling elites for a conference, then killed most of them. Spared Atahualpa until he gave them gold, then murdered him, thus destroying Inca rule.
- Pizarro used epidemic disease and local discontent with ruling elite to take over by 1540, just as Cortes did (though it took longer).

### **Iberian Empires in the Americas**

- Cortes and Pizarro originally allocated land on their own, but monarchy soon expanded its power by 1570.
- Royal bureaucrats replaced soldiers as ruling party.

### **Spanish Colonial Administration**

- Mexico (New Spain) and Peru (New Castile) were two main centers of Spanish authorities, governed by royal viceroy.
- Viceroys were limited by *audiencias*, university-educated lawyers who could take concerns to the Spanish kings, and reviewed viceroys at the end of their terms (bad review = severe punishment).
- Not very efficient: viceroys had poor communication networks to enforce rules, and communication between them and Spanish king took years, plus viceroys would find ways to avoid doing the king's bidding.

### **New Cities**

- Cities were established rapidly throughout viceroyalties.
- Migrants preferred to live in cities to oversee their large estates.
- Led to dense networks of bureaucratic control spanning large swaths of land.

### **Portuguese Brazil**

- Portuguese established imperial presence in Brazil.
- *Treaty of Tordesillas* - divided land between Spain and Portugal (Spain could go west, Portugal could go east).
- No initial interest in Brazil until French and Dutch mariners started visiting it; the king then consolidated his claim.
- King gave land grants to Portuguese nobles and dispatched a governor to enforce royal policy: interest kicked up after sugar plantations were founded in the 1550s.

### **Colonial American Society**

- Cities became centers of European-style society in the Americas with churches and European languages for government, business, and society.
- Beyond urban districts, native people continued their indigenous ways of life.
- Spanish and Portuguese peoples saw western hemisphere as a place to exploit than a place to settle, though many of them did settle, which made a new world in the western hemisphere.

### **Settler Colonies in North America**

- Spanish explorers explored North America too.
- English and Dutch mariners (fishermen and northwest passage-seekers) kicked out Spanish north of Florida and settled.
- French/English colonies differed from Iberian territorial empires but both greatly contributed to transforming the western hemisphere.

### **Foundation of Colonies**

- French established Port Royal (Nova Scotia) [1604] and Quebec [1608].
- English established Jamestown [1607] and Massachusetts Bay Colony [1630].

- Dutch built New Amsterdam in [1623] but English took it in [1664] and made it New York.
- Life was very difficult in early settlements, settlers hoped to sustain communities by producing valuable commodities like fur, pitch, tar, and lumber.
- Relied on European ships for provisions; when they failed to come, they were struck with famine.

### **Colonial Government**

- French and English colonies differed from Iberian territories in the south.
- Private investors drove colonial settlement, not royal backing as Iberians did.
- English colonies were subject to royal authority but held their own assemblies to influence royal governors.
- Seven-Year's War gave French Canadian colony to English, so it also got self-government.

### **Relations with Indigenous Peoples**

- Many indigenous peoples were migratory, and laid no claim to specific land but rather had well-defined migratory regions.
- Europeans just cultivated their migratory regions, citing that they were not using the land but merely hunting on it (hunting to Europeans was a sport for the rich) thus ruining their way of life.

### **Conflict**

- Unlike Iberian territories, conflicts with natives resulted in treaty agreements that natives rarely respected.
- Epidemic disease and violent conflict greatly reduced indigenous population, and by 1800, Europeans and African slaves outnumbered them by millions.

## **Colonial Society in the Americas**

- Relations between native American, European, and African peoples caused mestizo populations to form.
- However, Europeans dominated political and economic affairs in the Americas.

### **The Formation of Multicultural Societies**

#### **Cabeza de Vaca**

- European explorers who went into interior regions of American continents (not the coastline) in the 1500s had bad outcomes such as Cabeza who ventured into Florida.
- Expedition was a disaster: his followers died due to inadequate supplies and local conditions/forces. He attempted to sail to New Spain on the Mississippi River but got pushed into the Gulf of Mexico and landed in Texas.
- He and his remaining companions lived as slaves or physicians until they escaped to Mexico in 1536.

#### **Mestizo Societies**

- All European territories became multicultural societies with European dominance.
- Due to small amounts of migrant women in non-urban areas, male settlers reproduced with indigenous women to create *mestizo* babies.
- Brazilians also engaged in Portuguese-to-Indigenous, Indigenous-to-African, and Portuguese-to-African relationships, creating a society more mixed than Mexico.

#### **Social Hierarchy**

- Peninsulares, people who came from Iberian peninsula, were at the top of the hierarchy.
- Criollos and creoles came next, people born to Iberian parents in the Americas.
- Mestizos were initially sidelined but became an important part of society, too.
- In Brazil, non-mestizo mixed persons were subordinate to European migrants, creoles, and sometimes mestizos.
- Slaves and conquered peoples were obviously at the bottom.

## North American Societies

- Very different than that of Iberian colonies.
- Settlers married within their own groups, but French fur traders did generate metis (mixed) people with indigenous women around trading posts (not as common in urban areas).
- English settlers were highly racist against natives and Africans and did not associate with them.
- English settlers still learned from Americans and Africans, but discouraged relationships between Europeans and Americans/Africans.

## Mining and Agriculture in the Spanish Empire

- Precious metals drew thousands of migrants from Spain.
- Led to extraction of wealth in a more systematic manner.

### Silver Mining

- Silver was the most abundant American treasure, more valuable and numerous than gold.
- Silver mining sites employed large numbers of indigenous laborers, who soon lost their cultural roots.
- *Mita* system - borrowed from Incas, allowed Spanish to source labor from indigenous peoples as tribute; they received poor wages and terrible conditions with a high death rate.

### Global Significance of Silver

- Mining industries in Mexico and Peru powered Spanish economy and simulated the world economy.
- Spanish government reserved a fifth of the gold, *quinto*, for itself, which represented the revenue the crown got from American possessions.
- Silver was traded to merchants in Europe, who took it to Asia for silk, spices, and porcelain.

### The Hacienda

- Haciendas were used to produce foodstuffs for their own use as well as for sale on markets (food was another principal occupation aside from mining in Spanish America).
- Grew European crops, bordered by smaller properties owned by Spanish migrants / creoles as well as native lands.

### Labor Systems

- Indigenous population worked the Haciendas under the *encomienda* system.
- System led to abuse of workers and so it became a tribute system which waned in use.
- New system of debt peonage in which native peoples could take loans to buy seeds, tools, and supplies, but were in debt and had to repay it with labor (debt was too high for them to ever pay off).

### Resistance to Spanish Rule

- Rebellion, halfhearted work, and escape outside Spanish power reach were ways indigenous peoples resisted Spanish rule.
- *Pueblo revolt* drove Spanish settlers out of northern Mexico for 12 years [1680].
- *Guaman Poma de Ayala* was a native Peruvian who wrote 1200 pages with hundreds of illustrations of complaints to the king of Spain, which never reached him, but gives us a record of the atrocities of the colonists.

## Sugar and Slavery in Portuguese Brazil

- Portuguese empire in Brazil depended on production and export of sugar.
- Unlike Spanish who used administrative systems to source labor from natives, Portuguese nobles established plantations and used African slaves to work the land.

### The Engenho

- *Engenho* - represented a complex of land, labor, buildings, animals, capital, and technical skills

related to production of sugar.

- Sugar required lots of processing, depending on heavy labor and specialized workers, so *engenhos* were the most intricate businesses in the Americas.
- Planters and owners were a privileged class but had to manage their businesses personally since they were so complex, and had small profit margins.

### **The Search for Labor**

- Like the Spanish, Portuguese tried to source local populations for labor but this failed due to resistance.
- Smallpox and measles also destroyed indigenous populations.

### **Slavery**

- African slaves imported as early as 1530s, but became large-scale in 1580s.
- High rates of disease and mortality for African slaves resulted from poor working conditions in *engenhos* and this only fueled the demand for more slaves.
- No economic incentive to improve conditions for slaves, so they didn't, and every one ton of sugar cost one human life.

## **Fur Traders and Settlers in North America**

### **The Fur Trade**

- Indigenous peoples trapped fur and exchanged them with Europeans for wool blankets, iron pots, firearms, and distilled spirits.
- Europeans took them to Europe to satisfy demand for beaver skin hats and fur clothing.

### **The Effects of Fur Trade**

- American beaver populations declined rapidly, so trappers continuously pushed farther inland, and when this failed, people fought for land with more beavers.
- Indigenous peoples also got caught in the middle of European rivalries, often leading to huge wars in North America.

### **Settler Society**

- European settlers displaced natives from the land, turning hunting grounds into plantations.
- English and French settlers initially depended on indigenous peoples to grow maize and hunt game and fish, but became independent over time with very distinct societies from native peoples.

### **Tobacco and Other Cash Crops**

- Cash crops such as tobacco fueled economic development of French and English colonies.
- Tobacco was addictive so the trade was *very* lucrative.
- Rice, indigo, and tobacco, and a bit later, cotton, became prominent plantation crops.

### **Indentured Labor**

- When they couldn't source labor from natives, planters recruited indentured servants from Europe.
- Europeans who had no future in Europe exchanged a portion of their working life for passage to their new life in the Americas.
- Many indentured servants died from poor conditions or disease, others found marginal employment, and some did achieve their dreams of prominence in colonial society.

### **Slavery in North America**

- English settlers used African slaves initially as indentured servants, sometimes as permanent servitude, but other times they became free.
- In the 1660s, Virginia law declared all blacks were slaves; however, slave labor was not prominent

in northern colonies, but still profited from it as slave traders and slave ship builders.

## Christianity and Native Religions in the Americas

### Spanish Missionaries

- Priests served as representatives of the crown and reinforced civil administrators.
- Missionaries came to Spanish possessions to Christianize the natives.
- They also served the purpose of preserving information on indigenous language, customs, beliefs, literature, and history.

### Survival of Native Religions

- Indigenous peoples resisted this change, in spite of Spanish rulers banning their practice.
- Some people did convert to Catholicism, because they thought their gods had abandoned them, though they mixed their own interests and traditions into it.

### The Virgin of Guadalupe

- New religious figure created by mestizo society.
- Symbolized distinctly Mexican faith and promise of salvation.
- Ensured both that Catholicism would remain in Mexico, and that it would continue on with indigenous influences.

### French and English Missions

- Harder for French and English to convert indigenous peoples since they did not rule over them, just displaced them and lived near them.
- English colonists weren't even that interested in converting people to Christianity.
- Though indigenous peoples didn't convert, the English and French had enough settlements to ensure European religion would keep its place in North American society.

## Europeans in the Pacific

- Australia and the Pacific islands also experienced similar transformations as the western hemisphere.
- Just like Americans, Australians did not have resistance to epidemic diseases, though their peril came much later.
- European scouting of these regions laid foundation for more intense interactions between European, Euro-American, Asian, and Oceanic people during the 1800s and 1900s.

## Australia and the Larger World

### Dutch Exploration

- Dutch VOC sponsored voyages to Australia but mariners took little interest.
- Europeans visited intermittently to scout the coasts but had fleeting interactions with natives and assumed they were wretched savages.
- European mariners made no effort to establish permanent settlements in Australia.

### British Colonists

- Captain James Cook charted eastern coast of Australia in 1770 so Europeans began to take interest in it.
- English used it as a prison colony where convicts herded sheep.
- Europeans trickled into it slowly, but did not link it into the larger world until the 1800s and 1900s.

## Pacific Islands and the Larger World

- European merchants and settlers did not arrive in large numbers in Pacific Islands until late 1700s.
- Guam and Mariana Islands underwent change in the 1500s as European merchants set up the stage for upheavals in the 1800s and 1900s.

### **Spanish Voyages in the Pacific**

- Spanish mariners did find Pacific Islands but took little interest in them because their trade routes did not use them.
- Did interact with Mariana Islands before the Philippines and brush up on other islands a tad, that's it.

### **Guam**

- Guam and northern Mariana Islands attracted Spanish interests because Manila galleons could refuel at them and engage in peaceful trade with indigenous Chamorro people.
- Spanish decided they wanted it, so their military conquest combined with smallpox got them their new possession. Classic Spanish...

### **Visitors and Trade**

- Indigenous peoples in Pacific Islands usually had fleeting encounters with Europeans.
- Islanders and Mariners interacted more when Europeans started looking for a northwest passage.
- English and French mariners frequently traded with the Tahiti after 1767, which was usually peaceful but sometimes resulted in skirmishes.

### **Captain Cook and Hawaii**

- 1778 - James Cook arrived to an accommodating indigenous Hawaiian population with which he traded pigs and provisions for ironware.
- Revisited in 1779 to hostility due to petty theft accusations, which left him dead.
- Cook initiated an influx of European/Euro-American peoples and gave them prominence in the Pacific islands, which eventually led to social upheaval in the 19th and 20th centuries.