

# History 1020 (2)

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## Imperialism

The process through which a country exerts its power through colonization of other territories for natural resources, spreading religion etc.

## Mercantilism

The total volume of trade among nations was unchangeable which means all the trade going on in Europe is all the trade there's going to be. So there was hoarding of gold silver and mercantilism. If you want to be a strong mercantilist country you will limit imports and expand exports.

A good mercantilist country will also build over seas colonies to promote these goals.

Private citizens were also getting in on the shipping industry through joint stock companies.

## The Atlantic slave trade.

Europeans completely understood that slavery could make them lots of money. When Columbus came upon the native Americans Columbus wrote to Isabel that they could domesticate the people Indians he found.

When slaves traveled from Africa to America through something called the middle passage, they travelled in cramped spaces with poor sanitation hence many slaves died on the voyage due to disease or starvation.

## The Aztecs and the Spanish

When the Spanish travelled to the Aztecs which is located in modern day Mexico. The Spanish thought that the Aztecs were savages because of the different religious practices which they had such as the presence of human sacrifice and also the way they use land for example group planting where you would take two different plants and plant them next to each other to make the soil more fertile and also shifting cultivation in which once one crop is planted and harvested another crop was planted.

The final reason why the Spanish thought the indigenous people were savages was the way they looked and their skin color.

## The toupees of Brazil

They were concurred by the Portuguese. Sugar was very hard to grow in Europe and Brazil's tropical climate was perfect for growing it. The Portuguese also wanted slaves to work in the sugar fields. The old theory of biological determinism is that some races of people are just better than others. The Europeans had steel for their swords and they had guns which were loud and they had horses. The indigenous soldiers were no match for the Spanish horsemen.

The Spanish also had the Columbian exchange. It is the transfer of things between countries of the Atlantic world. It was the transfer of things such as Resources, slaves, gold, farm produce and most

importantly disease. The Spanish brought with them smallpox, the indigenous people had no immunity to this foreign disease.

So the Europeans were not successful because they were biologically superior but because they were superior in terms of military and they also had the European exchange.

### **The Aztecs and the Spanish**

In 1519 in Mexico, the leader Montezuma are concurred by the Spanish who were led by Herman Cortez. In 1519 the Spanish arrive at Mexico and say they come as friends Montezuma gives Cortez gold and tells him there is more where this came from. Once Cortez and his band of conquistadors later takes Montezuma hostage in his own throne room. The Spanish also allied with other indigenous groups outside the capital. In 1523 historians say that the Aztecs were completely concurred.

### **The Inca and the Spanish.**

In 1530 Francisco Pizarro Landed in the pacific coast of north America. Pizarro was lucky because the Inca population was already affected by a bout of smallpox. Pizarro took advantage of the situation by seizing the emperor. Armed with only sticks and stones and light spears the Incas were no match for the Spanish steel and horses and Pizarro quickly took the capital.

### **Administration of the Spanish empire**

The first thing the Spanish do is implement a gold quota, in which the indigenous people have to bring the Spanish an amount of gold every month which increases successively, and if the quota could not be met it will result in harsh consequences.

The Spanish put in place the *encomienda* system in which to be rewarded for their services the Spanish conquistadors were assigned plots of land which they owned. The Spanish also made it their top priority to destroy indigenous religion, while although this religion did not completely disappear it merged with the Spanish Catholicism.

### **Africa: the slave trade**

When the Europeans found Africa they merely replaced white slaves with black ones and millions of slaves the exchanged over the course of four centuries. Europeans bought African slaves from local slave traders in exchange for European goods such as guns and leather. A **transatlantic slave system** was created between Africa, America and Europe, slaves were shipped across the sea in something that was called **the middle passage** which was one of the harshest journeys they could endure, with cramped spaces poor nutrition and no hygiene thousands of African slaves succumbed to either starvation or death due to epidemic . It wasn't until the 1700's that slavery came under harsh criticism in Europe.

### **The Dutch, British and French**

Once the Portuguese and Spanish empires began to wane they were faced with new competition from the Dutch, British and French. France claimed much of Canada for itself and Northern America was predominantly white British America. The British also controlled India and soon replaced the Spanish as the major colonial empire

### **Economic conditions in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.**

There was a price revolution in Europe due to increased trade and more goods flowing into the country from the colonies all the prices of goods and services sky rocketed and wages didn't increase to meet it so many laborers especially agricultural laborers saw their standard of living drop.

There was also commercial expansion through new forms of commercial organization such as the Joint stock company, whereby members of the public invested in the company and when the ships returned with foreign merchandise the investors would get a return several thousand percent.