Conquest and Colonies

Human Legacy

Chapter 16.2, pages 476-481
Spain Builds an Empire

• “After European explorers reached the Americas, countries began to scramble to establish colonies and empires in the lands they had found. Among the first countries to successfully settle in the Americas was Spain, which eventually conquered the two greatest native empires of the Americas, the Aztecs and Incas.”

~Human Legacy, page 477.
Spain in the Caribbean

- Settlements on Cuba & Hispaniola (Dominican Republic & Haiti)
- Searching for Gold
- **Encomienda System**
  - Colonists granted land (by Spain)
  - Native Americans work the land (as peasant serfs)
  - Colonists teach Native Americans Christianity
  - Native Americans overworked and mistreated
  - Many die from European diseases
    - Smallpox, tuberculosis, measles
Conquest of Mexico

• Conquistadors
  – Spanish military aristocracy
  – Most had fought against the Moors during the Reconquista
  – Come to establish fiefs in the New World

• Hernan Cortes
  – Conquers Aztec Empire in Mexico (1519)
  – Spanish Advantages
    • Guns & metal weapons
    • Horses (never seen before)
    • Many Native Americans sided with the Spanish
    • Disease kills many Native Americans
Aztec Empire in 1519

• Ruled by Montezuma II
• Conquered and Brutally enslaved many surrounding tribes
• Practiced Human Sacrifice
  – Cut out human hearts while still beating
• Capital of **Tenochtitlan** built on a Lake
  – Took nearly a year for the Spanish to capture this city
Conquest of Peru

• **Francisco Pizarro**
  – Spanish Conquistador
  – Conquers Incan Empire in 1532
  – Kidnaps and murders the ruler, **Atahualpa**
  – Demand Incas convert to Christianity

• **Incan Empire**
  – Modern Peru
  – Capital at Cuzco
  – Fabulously wealthy in gold
  – Weakened by smallpox and civil war when Pizarro arrived
Life in the Spanish Empire

• Viceroy – Rule regions in name of the King

• Colonial Economy
  – Mining gold & silver
    • Potosi silver mines
  – Farming

• Native American Population
  – Used as slave labor
  – 90% die from disease and mistreatment

• Bartolome de Las Casas
  – Catholic Priest who speaks out against mistreatment of Native Americans
The Portuguese in Brazil

- Treaty of Tordesillas
  - Drafted by Pope Alexander VI
  - Divides colonization rights between Spain & Portugal
  - Spain gets Americas except Brazil
  - Portugal gets Africa & Brazil

- Brazil
  - Portuguese settle in 1530s
  - Establish huge farming plantations
  - Use Native American labor
    - Gradually replaced by African slaves
French, Dutch and English Colonies in the Americas

• “As silver and gold from Spain’s and Portugal’s American colonies began to circulate throughout Europe, other European countries paid close attention. Leaders in France, England, and the Netherlands decided that they too, needed to establish colonies in the Americas.”

~Human Legacy, page 479.
New France

- Small # of French Settlers
- Settle in Canada
  - Quebec founded in 1608
- Explore Mississippi River
  - Rene-Robert La Salle canoes entire river in 1682
- Economy based on Trade
  - Timber, furs & fish
- Native Americans not enslaved
  - French traders ally and intermarry with native American tribes
The Dutch of New Netherland

• Settle in Hudson River Valley
• Primary interest is trade
• New Amsterdam (New York) founded in 1626
  – Population circa 4,000 in 1650s
• Dutch Focus on Colonies in other parts of the World
  – Caribbean for Sugar
  – East Indies for spices
The English Colonies

• Jamestown Virginia, 1607
  – Looking for gold & silver
  – 80% die during the first winter
  – House at Jamestown colony pictured at right

• Pilgrims 1620
  – Plymouth Rock, MA
  – Escaping religious persecution
  – Self Sufficient colony within 5 years
Jamestown Settlement

About 40 percent of the site is excavated. After an area has been dug, it is recovered and tagged to preserve the site’s integrity.

The earliest colonists lived inside a triangular palisade with three bulwarks at the corners for defense.

Buildings with less archaeological evidence are shown in white.

Fort walls were constructed of logs set into a narrow trench. All that remains of the palisade fence are stains in the soil.

The Factory (trading, brewing, and other industrial activities)

The first shelters were holes in the ground where colonists slept. Post patterns left in the ground indicated the style of architecture used for houses. Those built were likely mud and stud — a basic timber frame and earth walls. Roofs were thatch. As many as five or six men may have lived in a house.

Public buildings included a storehouse and court of guard. Five churches were constructed and replaced from 1607 to 1676.
British-French Conflict

- English Colonists settling in Ohio-River valley in 1700s
- War breaks out in 1754
  - Called 7 years war in Europe (1756-1763)
  - French & Indian War in Americas
  - British capture Quebec
  - French lose Canada & all territory east of Mississippi river.
- Britain tries to regain war costs by taxing colonies
  - Leads to American Revolution
## French And Indian War

### Causes
- English tried to settle on land in the Americas that had been claimed by the French.
- Native American groups allied with each side to fight their opponents.

### Effects
- The French lost nearly all their territory in North America, including Canada.
- Great Britain amassed huge debts, which the British tried to recoup from the colonies.