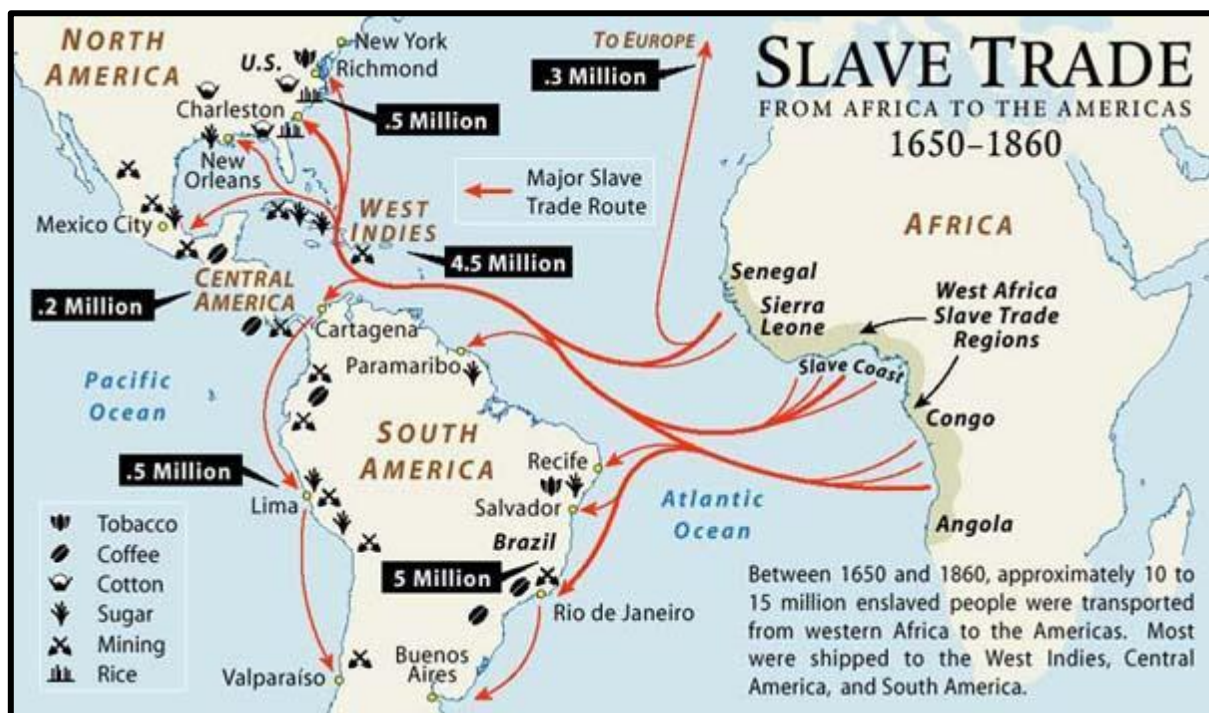




European Colonization of Asia, Africa, and the Americas

Enduring Understanding: European expansion during the 1600s and 1700s was often driven by economic and technological forces. To understand the influence of these forces, you will compare the differing ways that European nations developed political and economic influences, including trade and settlement patterns, on the continents of Asia, Africa, and the Americas.



Mother countries such as Portugal, Spain, Great Britain, France and the Netherlands were driven by money and power and enabled by advanced weapons and technology to expand and develop **political** and **economic** influences in Asia, the Americas, and Africa.

Colonizing Asia

In Asia, interaction was based on trade and global expansion. As a region, Asia was distinctly different than the New World (the Americas) and Africa. Asia was highly advanced, with prosperous civilizations and strong militaries. Because of this, Europeans treated Asians as equals. This **equality** prompted Europe and Asia to largely engage in mutually beneficial trade relationships. This means that both Asians and Europeans benefited equally from the trade.



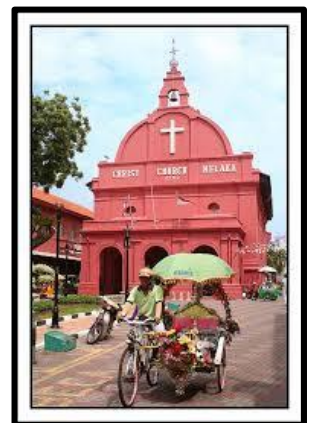
Because Europeans viewed Asians as equals they did not colonize Asia, but simply established a trade “presence” in port cities and along the coastal regions of Asia. This trade led to a change in Asian economies, which became more dependent on European trade. This trade also created a more prosperous merchant class in Asia just like in Europe.

Section Review:

- 1) Why were mother countries able to expand into foreign lands?
- 2) Describe the trade relationship between Europeans and Asians.
- 3) How did international trade change Asia?

During most of the 1600s and 1700s there was no significant European colonization in Asia; however, it still had a profound impact on the society and culture of Asia. For centuries, Asian civilizations had largely developed in isolation from one another and from the European world. This means that Asian nations did not have much interaction with the outside world. With the opening and eventual expansion of trade relationships this tradition of isolation began to break down.

The introduction of European ideas into Asia became apparent, especially with the introduction of Christianity. **Missionaries**, people sent into an area to spread the church's teachings, began travelling with European merchants. As merchants entered ports, so would the Christian missionaries. Because of the threat Christianity posed to Asian culture, Asian governments pushed all foreigners out of their countries and reinstated their policy of **isolationism**, a policy in which a country does not participate in international affairs, to protect their culture.



Section Review:

- 4) How were Asians impacted by international trade?
- 5) Why did Asian governments turn to a policy of isolationism?
- 6) What is isolationism?

Colonizing the Americas

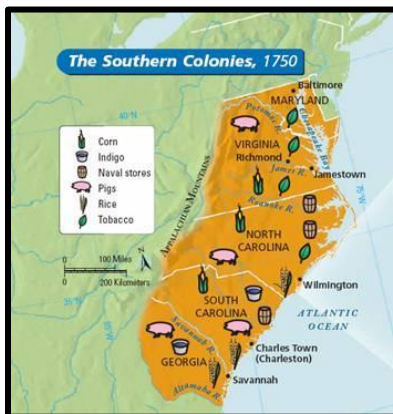
In the Americas, unlike in Asia and in Africa, colonization did take place. Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands explored and settled in the New World. European mother countries settled their colonies in the Americas in different ways.



In the Spanish and Portuguese colonies where gold and silver were discovered, trade became the primary basis of interaction.

Both of these nations also quickly developed **plantation colonies**. Plantations are large farms that specialize in growing **cash crops**, which are crops grown for the sole purpose of a profit, by use of slave labor. Natives were conquered and worked as slaves until they began to die from European diseases. This caused labor

shortages. Labor shortages became a huge dilemma. Native labor was replaced by imported slave labor from Africa. Native Americans and Africans were excluded from society and often mistreated through harsh punishments and working conditions on the plantations. The plantations evolved in the Caribbean and Amazon basin where sugar cane could be grown and sold as a valuable cash crop.



The French and the Netherlands (the Dutch) developed plantations in the Caribbean as well.

Plantation colonies could also be found in the southern English colonies, like South Carolina. Here crops such as tobacco, rice, indigo, and some sugar were grown as cash crops. These cash crops are the natural resources that were sent back to England, where they were manufactured into finished products.

France, England, and the Netherlands did not enslave Native Americans, but they did import slave labor from Africa.

Section Review:

- 7) What made the colonization of the New World different from colonization in Asia and Africa?
- 8) What is a plantation colony?
- 9) What caused labor shortages in the plantation colonies?
- 10) How did colonizing countries deal with the labor shortages in plantation colonies?
- 11) Where were English plantation colonies located?



The British, and the French to a lesser degree, also relied on **indentured servants** to help with the labor supply needed for the growing plantation system. Indentured servants are people who worked to pay off debts or the costs of traveling to the Americas from the mother country.

Some indentured servants are known as redemptioners. **Redemptioners**, a group of indentured servants in British colonies, negotiated their terms of work, to pay for their costs to travel and

live, upon arriving in the Americas.

Another large group of indentured servants, about 25%, was made up of people convicted of some type of crime. These convicts were then sent to the Americas to pay their debt to society in what was called **penal colonies**. The state of Georgia was established based on this idea. The British continued this practice by sending convicts to their colony of Australia.

Section Review:

12) What is an indentured servant?

13) What is a redemptioner?

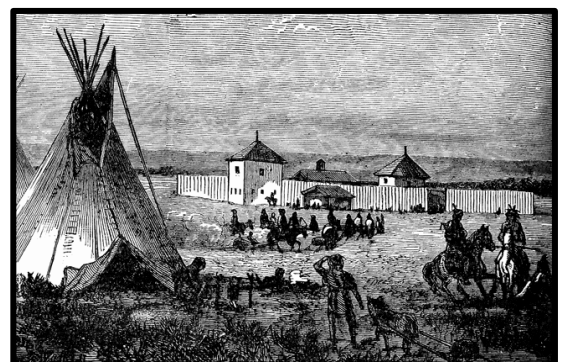
14) Why did the British establish the colonies of Georgia and Australia?

Another type of settlement focused on trade. **Trade post colonies** were developed by the French and Dutch. They were established where gold and silver were not found and cash crops could not be grown.

The Dutch led the way with early colonization and trading posts in Suriname, South America.

The French established trading posts with Native Americans in North America. Fur trapping and trading was very prosperous and it allowed the French to establish generally good relations with the Indians. The French merchants, people who made their living from trade, remained on friendly terms with the natives and even learned to speak their language.

The British wanted to take over the fur trade and as much land as possible in the Americas. Because of the good relations between the French and Native Americans, and to try to prevent the British from taking their land, the natives and French teamed up against the British. Conflicts worsened and eventually led to the **French and Indian War**. In this war the Native Americans and French fought the British. Britain won, and as a result, the British gained much of France's land, and France's power and influence in the Americas began to decline. *Examine the map below.*



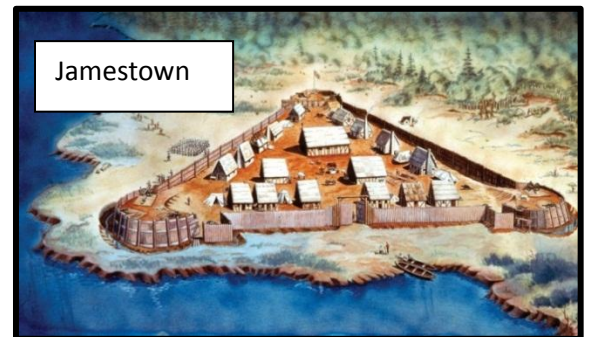


Section Review:

- 15) What was the purpose of trade post colonies?
- 16) Where did the French establish trading posts?
- 17) Why did the French and the natives fight against the British?
- 18) What were the results of the French and Indian War?

The last type of settlement in the Americas was the development of true **settler colonies**. These colonies were created by transporting large numbers of people to live in an area permanently.

The first English colony was developed at **Jamestown** in Virginia. It was established as a trading settlement, but out of necessity, soon developed into a permanent colonial settlement.



Pilgrims landing at Plymouth

Soon after Jamestown began to flourish, the **Pilgrims**, a group of English Puritans, came to America to establish a colony based on religious freedoms and to spread Christianity. The intent of the **Puritans**, a group of Protestants from the Church of England that demanded simpler and stricter religious discipline, was to make the settlements they founded into colonies of permanent habitation.

The Spanish and Portuguese likewise spread Christianity amongst their settlements, but spread Catholicism rather than Protestantism. Religion, however, was not the emphasis or purpose of Spanish or Portuguese settlement. The Spanish and Portuguese were more concerned with making a profit than spreading their religion.

Section Review:

19) How is a settler colony different from a trade post and plantation colony?

20) Why was Jamestown established?

21) Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

Within the colonies the Europeans made their political presence known as they took control of lands. They also instituted various forms of government.

The Spanish and Portuguese ruled their colonies closely with a strong appointed **viceroy**, or royal representative, to monitor all activity. The viceroy had complete control of the colony, reporting only to the king and having no input from the colonists.

The French and Dutch were not as strict in their control and allowed more political decision-making amongst the colonists.

The English, however, were the most lenient with their colonies and allowed a **representative government** system similar to their own system of government. The colonists were allowed to elect representatives to participate in decision making for the colony.



Elected Assembly Meeting in a British Colony

Section Review:

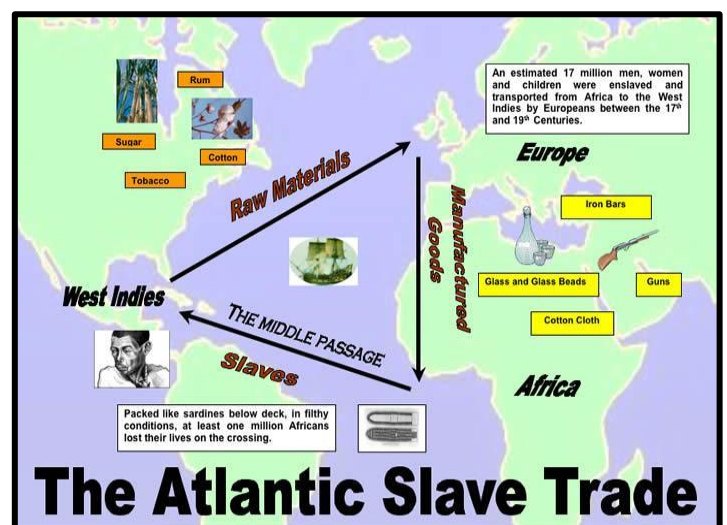
22) How did the Spanish and Portuguese rule their colonies?

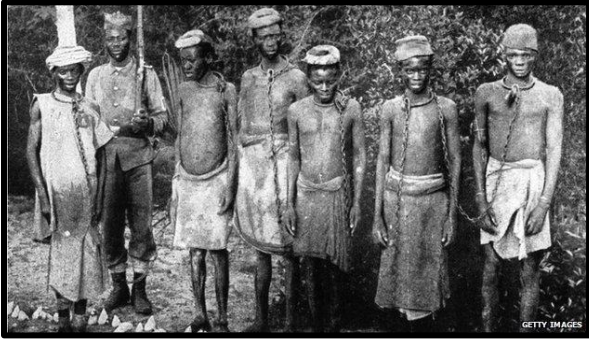
23) What type of government was established in English colonies?

24) What is a representative government?

Colonizing Africa

In Africa, trading post colonies were first established along the coast by the Portuguese. Their presence in Africa was based on the **slave trade**, which began as a result of the need for more labor on the plantations in the Americas. Europeans set up trade deals with African tribal leaders where they would trade weapons, iron, cloth, and horses for slaves.





African Slaves

As the demand for slaves increased, so did tribal warfare. Tribes began capturing other tribes in order to participate in this trade. Some tribes became very powerful through this process while most African societies suffered from the loss of workers being taken and traded to the Europeans.



Revolt on a Slave Ship

It was always the young and the strong taken to be sold, leaving behind the weak and elderly. Families and communities were separated, and the major population decrease and loss of workers led to economic problems in Africa.

Some Africans began resistance movements to try to stop the European slave trade, either by attacking European slave traders in Africa or by revolting on the slave ships. Like in Asia, there was no significant colonization or political takeover like there was in the Americas.

Section Review:

25) What type of colonies were established in Africa?

26) Why did Europeans trade slaves?

27) How did the slave trade affect African societies?

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