

# Exploration, Genocide, Slavery and Transformation of the Americas

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enslave africans, invent racism,  
give birth to capitalism and corporations,  
make the european world RICH  
and repopulate the Western Hemisphere while changing their cultures,  
while starting 500 years of nearly unending  
civil and international conflict

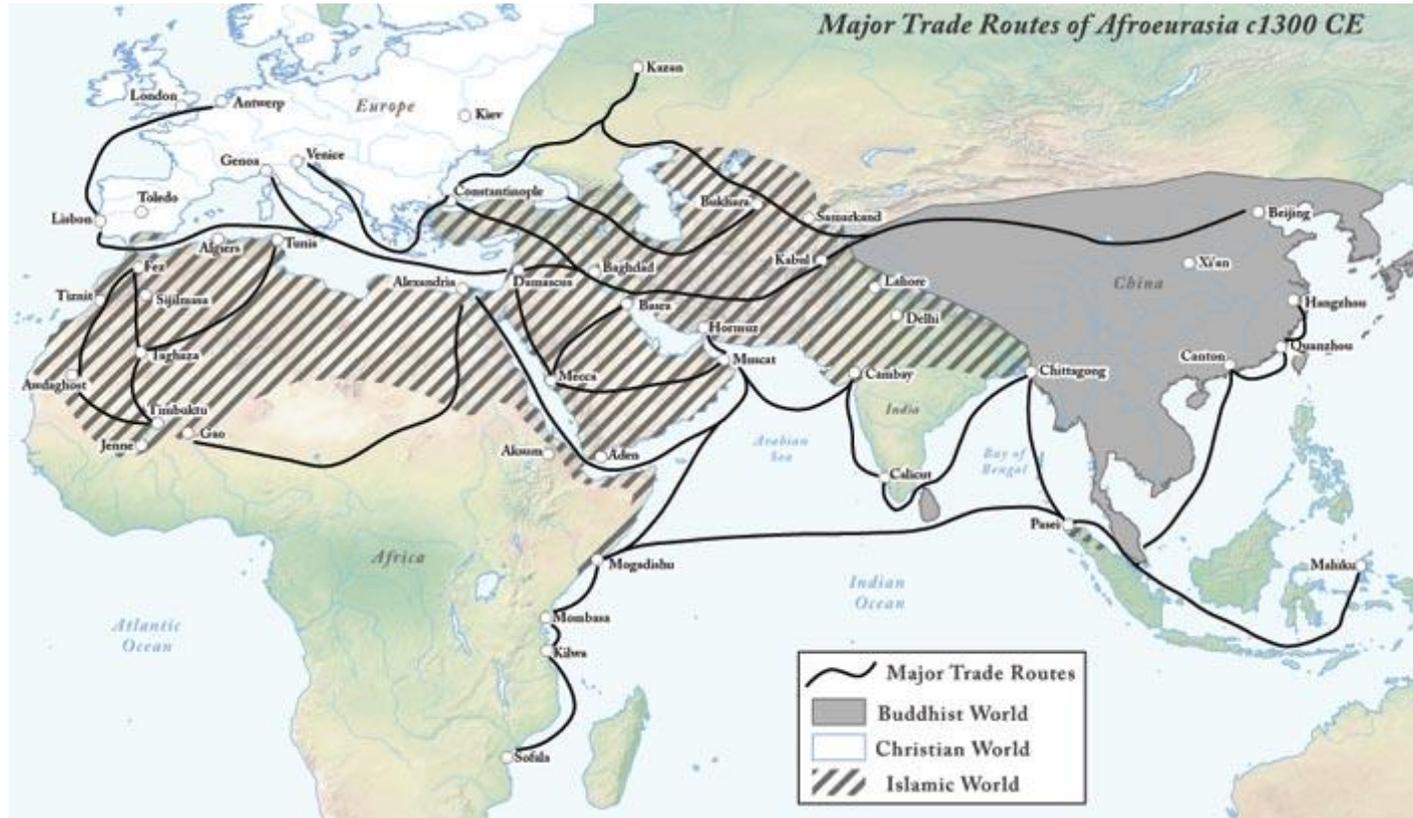


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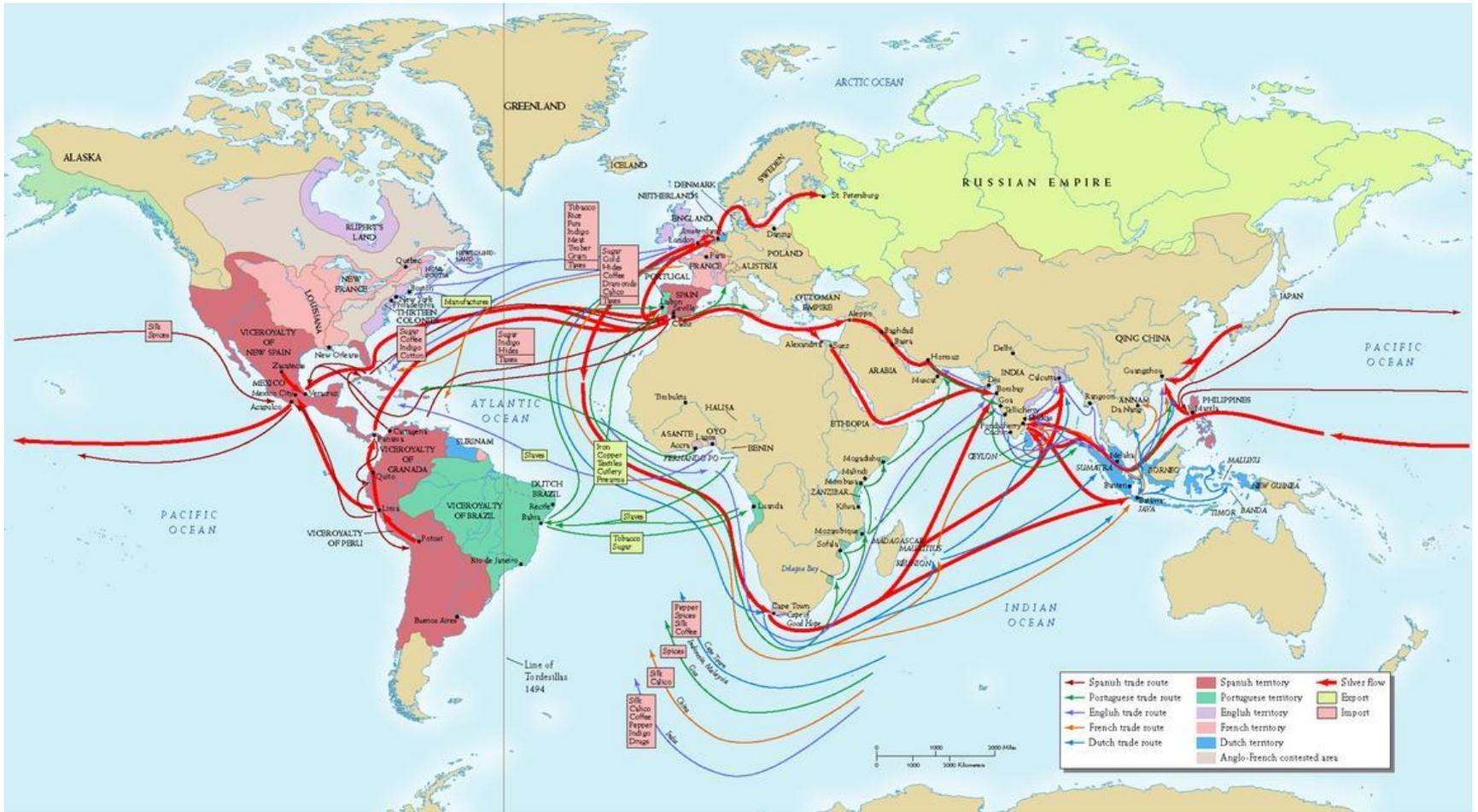
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trade in 1300 = overland china+india to europe



trade in 1600 = waterbourne



## Discovery of the New World



why?

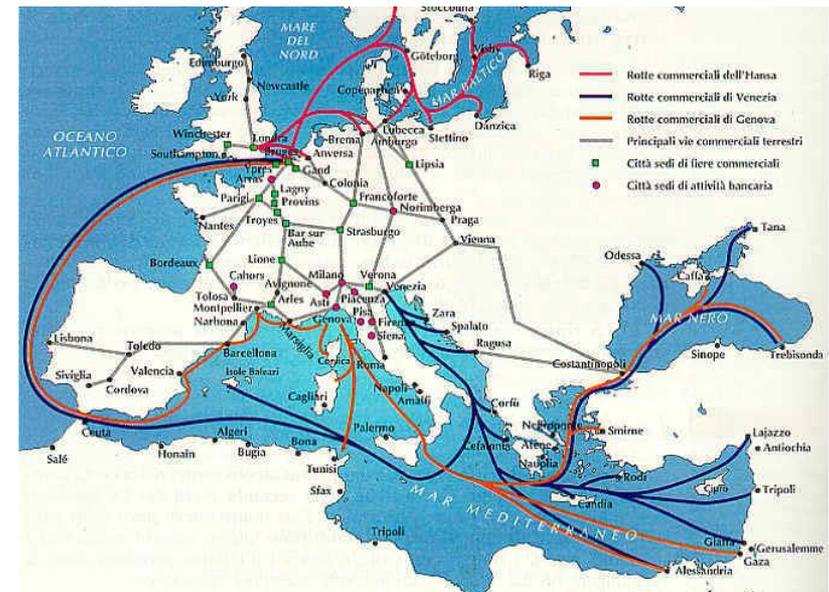
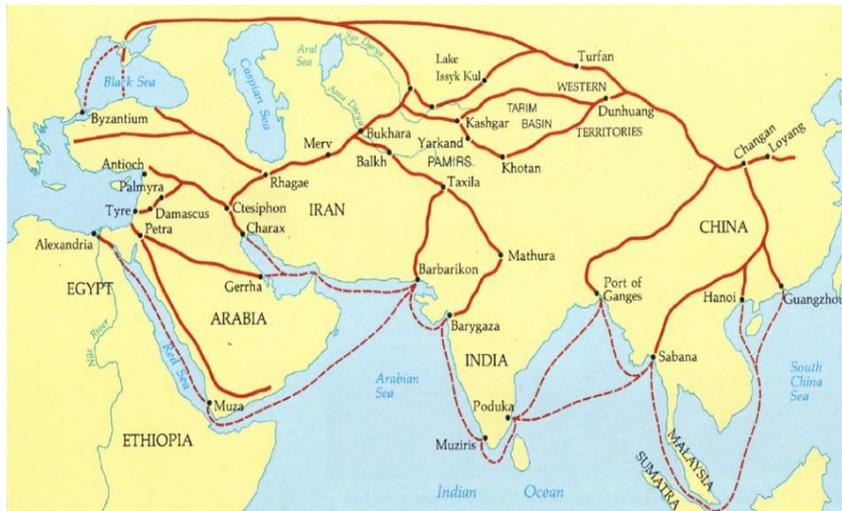
Destruction of the Silk Road = end of indian/chinese land routes (300 AD)

=

bad for the Turks (dominated Asia Minor)

=

bad for the Italians (dominated exotic luxury trade = \$\$\$ = renaissance!)



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\$\$\$ to be had if you could get to India/China

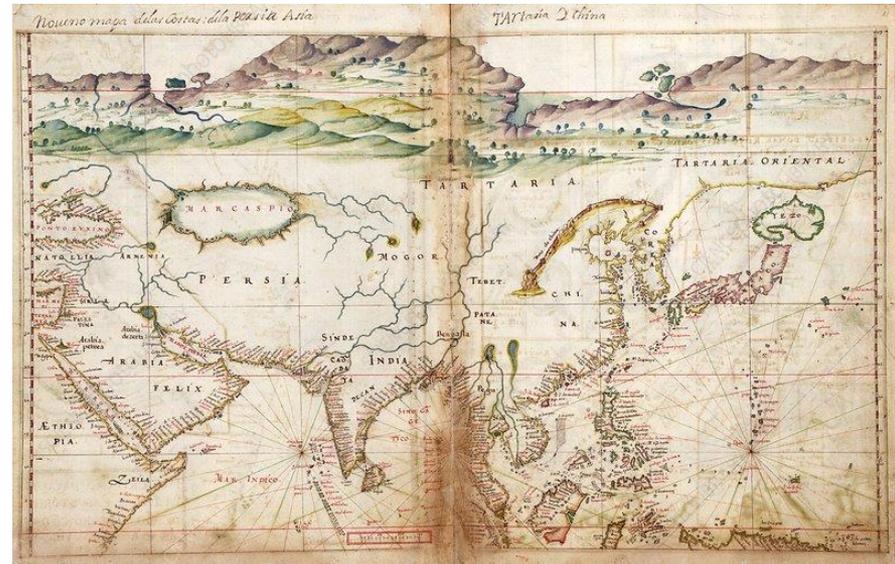


# Portugal

1450s – head south around africa  
(known? route)  
(how big is africa?)

=

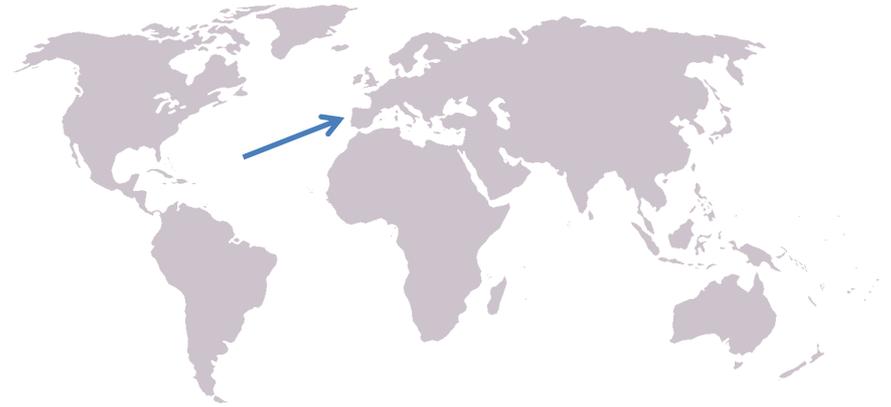
rest stops along the way.



# Portugal

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(how big is africa?)  
=  
rest stops along the way.

Vasco da Gama  
= 1497  
= 3000% profits!  
= kings start investing to make \$\$\$\$  
(independence from parliament/lords)  
+  
corporations start forming  
(diversify risk = share profits)  
=  
Race is on to reach China...



# Spain

Reconquista = Catholic Reconquest Spain from Islam

Reconquista = Crusade = Conquistadors!

1492 = Granada falls ending war

= money for exploration = Columbus

= unemployed soldiers who need money, like violence, love war for Jesus.  
= + know how to use advanced war tech (cannon, muskets)



1. head west, not south

(catch up to Portugal)

(hire italians)

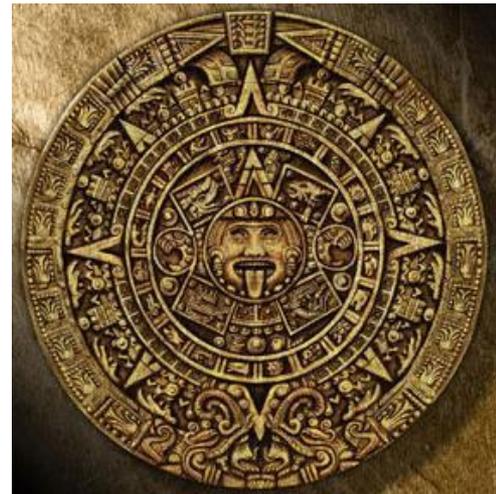
2. Run into American Civilizations

= no spices but **LOTS OF GOLD!**

(if you kill the people who own the gold)

(if you dig it out of the earth)

= then a new discovery.....



# SUGAR!!!!!!!!!!

= Soooooooooo! much money could be made (by 1750 = bigger than grain/rice)

= give food flavor

= molasses, rum, sweet tea,

= french pastry

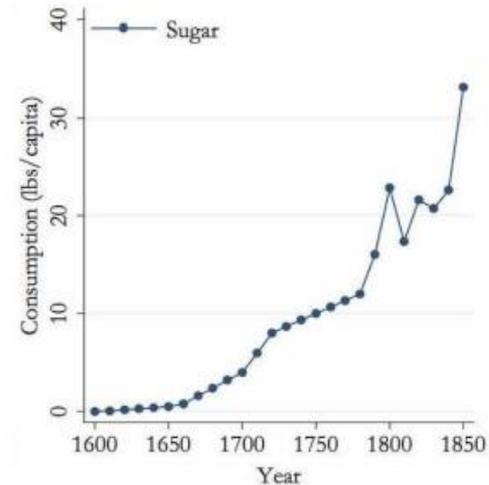
= later.....chocolate

(later tobacco in NA will work the same – huge cash crop)



IMAGE 2

Sugar Consumption Per Capita in England, 1600-1850



So?

sugar (tobacco) requires infrastructure of scale

= plantations = large farms w/ lots of workers

= requires money for the land, storage, labor, liquefaction  
equipment, education, shipping, barrels

= banks, companies = scaling up investments

BUT!!!!!!!

Sugar (tobacco) harvesting SUCKS!

= very hard labor + super hot all the time + malaria/yellow fever



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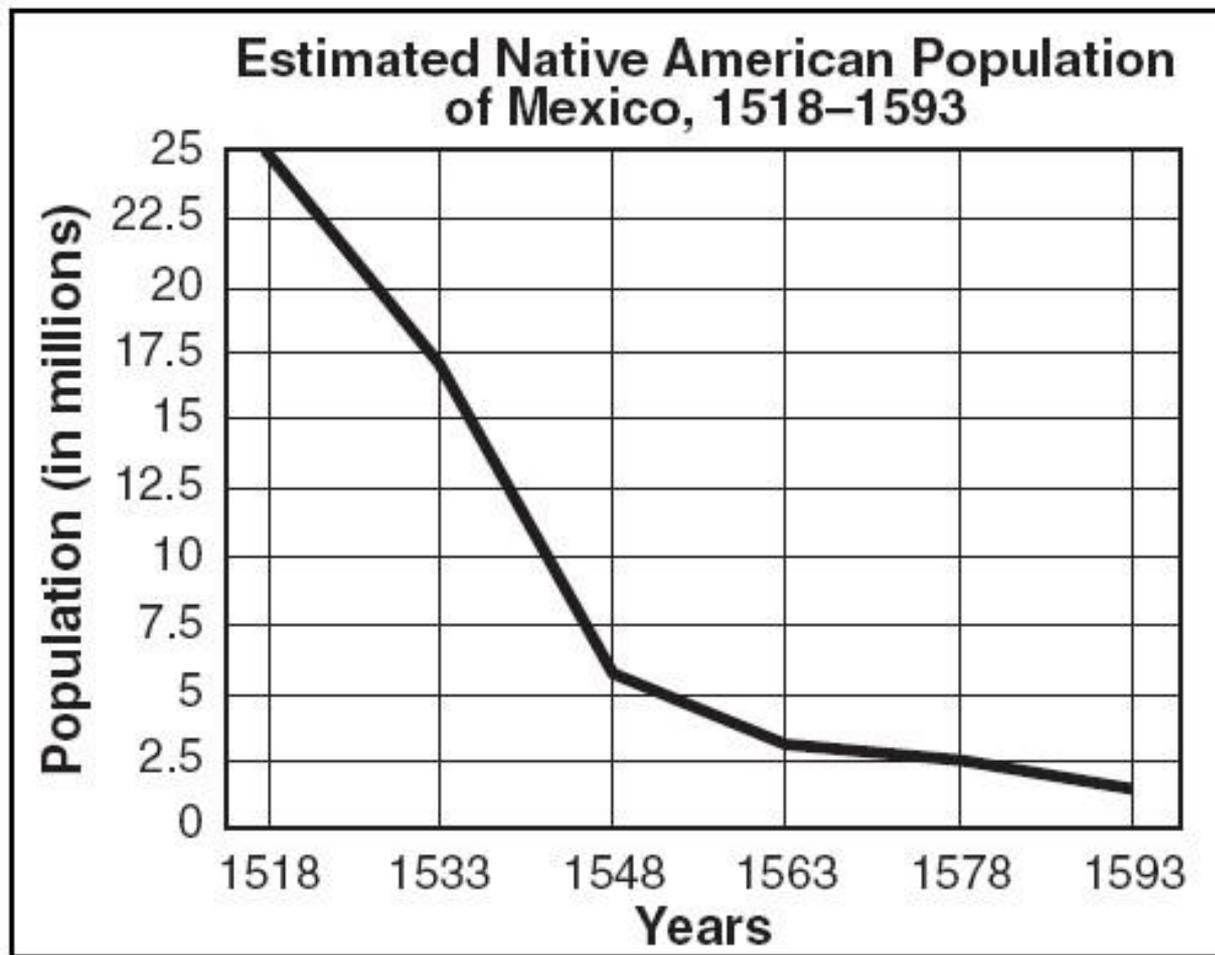
= make the american natives do the work (=peasants?!) but.....



95% +  
Natives Died  
from disease

old world disease

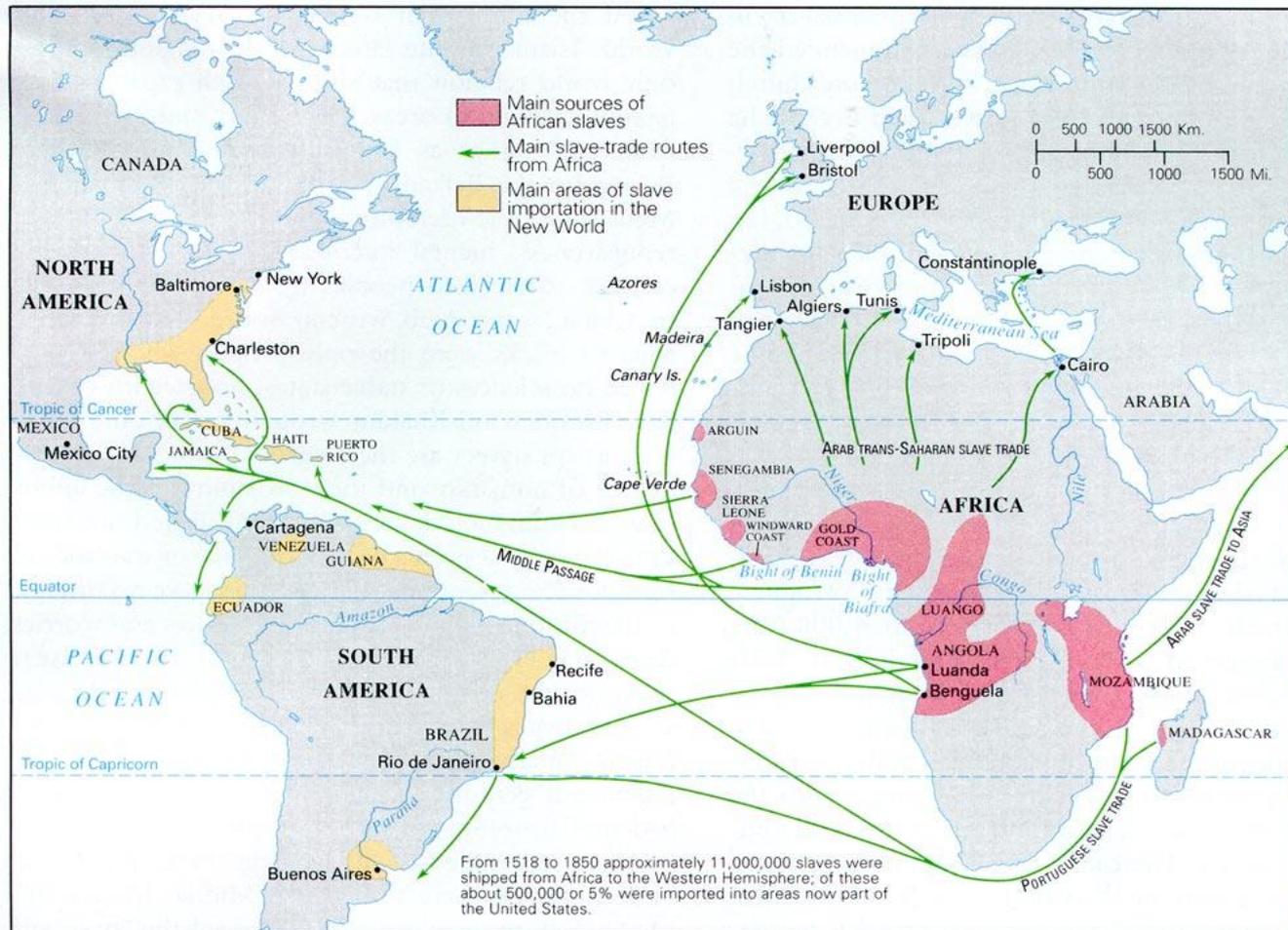
(immunity was  
15,000  
years separated  
from old world disease  
immunology)



Source: James Killoran et al., *The Key to Understanding Global History*, Jarrett Publishing (adapted)

Response:

## African Slavery



Why?

Need HUGE #s of workers

- = european lords wont give up peasants
- = european peasants dont want to work in Peru mines or Barbados Sugar
  
- = natives dead by murder and germ warfare
  
- = Ming China too tough to take people (Portugese tried and crushed)
- = Mughal India same, as Egypt and Persia.
  
- = African kingdoms in West Africa = far from coast (on Sahel)
- = African Kingdoms in East Africa = already tied to Arab slave trade (10-15)

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- = Slavery inside of Africa already existed as primary goal of warfare
  - = costal africans capture interior africans sell to europeans
  - = costal africans = \$\$\$\$ = guns = military adv = more slaves
  - = infrastructure built to export african young men

Why?

Christians can't be Slaves (theodosius 390 AD) but Africans not Christian (maybe?)

+

African's "used to" heat and hard labor (africa is hot, caribbean is hot = okey dokey)

+

Alternative to genocide of Native Americans (las Casas argument – retracted)

("I soon repented and judged myself guilty of ignorance. I came to realize that black slavery was as unjust as Indian slavery... and I was not sure that my ignorance and good faith would secure me in the eyes of God." (Vol II, p. 257)

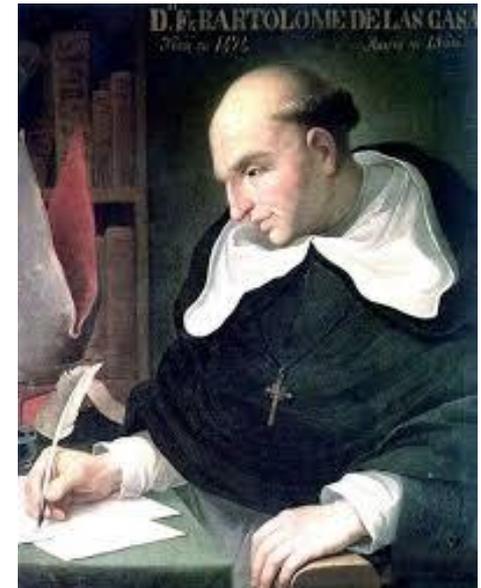
But.....

Bartolomé de las Casas = importance of Catholic Church, ally to Kings

= WTF!?! = these are future christian souls (ie ppl)!

= recorded genocide all over Spanish America

= concept of “human rights”



### De las Casas quote:

“They took infants from their mothers' breasts, snatching them by the legs and pitching them headfirst against the crags or snatched them by the arms and threw them into the rivers, roaring with laughter and saying as the babies fell into the water, "Boil there, you offspring of the devil!"

Bartolome de las Casas



What we committed in the Indies stands out among the most unpardonable offenses ever committed against God and mankind and this trade [in Indian slaves] as one of the most unjust, evil, and cruel among them.

AZ QUOTES

Christ seeks souls, not property. ... He who wants a large part of mankind to be such that ... he may act like a ferocious executioner toward them, press them into slavery, and through them grow rich, is a despotic master, not a Christian; a son of Satan, not of God; a plunderer, not a shepherd.

So.....

Church wants the world to be Catholic

= slaves must be given opportunity to be Catholic

Sooooo.....

Church wants the world to be Catholic

= slaves must be given opportunity to be Catholic

= slaves become catholic = cant be slaves = spanish law = must be set loose

= economic problem

= Valladolid debate (1550)

= **should slavery exist in the New World!!!!**

Las Casas vs Juan Gines de Sepulveda



## Las Casas

= Human rights, christian equality, we're gonna be judged ya'll.  
= least of us, brothers keeper,

Juan Gines de Sepulveda? agrees with everything Las Casas says....AND.....



Juan Gines de Sepulveda

.....King gets 20% (off the top)

= Guess.....



Racism!

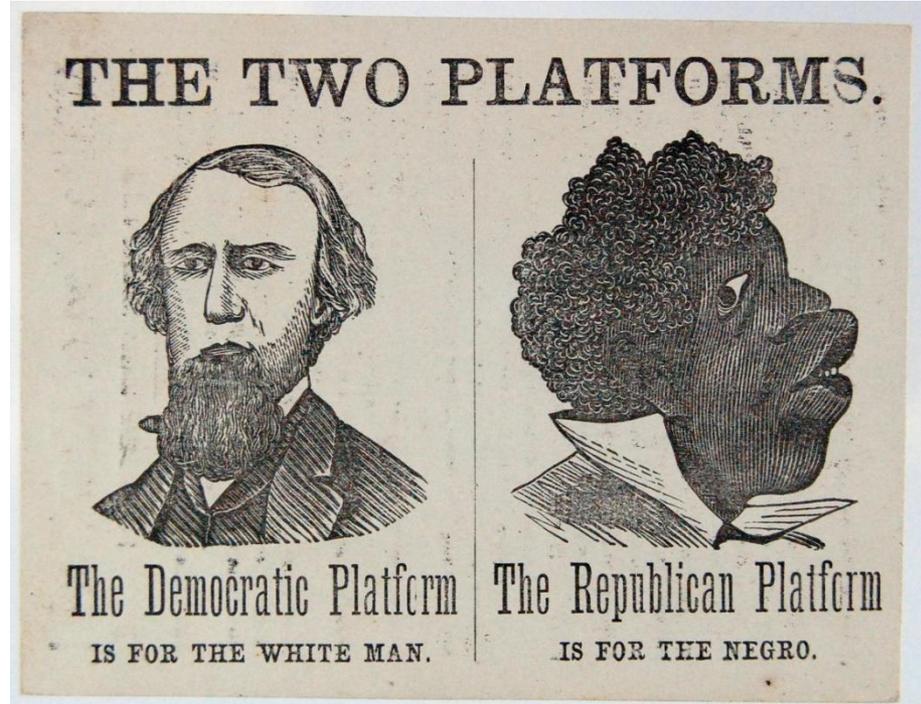
the value of a person =  
color of their skin

(different from race in old world = culture)

1. invents whiteness in Americas

2. color = biological/natural  
= unchanging + obvious  
= generational slavery

3. darkness = inferiority in all things  
(works in “great chain of being”)  
(hierarchy of all things on earth under god)



**BUSHMAN SHARES A CAGE  
WITH BRONX PARK APES**  
Some Laugh Over His Antics, but  
Many Are Not Pleased.  
**KEEPER FREES HIM AT TIMES**  
Then, with Bow and Arrow, the Pygmy  
from the Congo Takes to  
the Woods.



There was an exhibition at the Zoological Park, in the Bronx, yesterday which had for many of the visitors something more than a provocation to laughter. There were laughs enough in it, too, but there was something about it which made the serious-minded groan. Even those who laughed the most looked away with an expression on their faces such as one sees after a play with a sad ending or a book in which the hero or heroine is poorly rewarded.  
“Something about it that I don’t like,” was the way one man put it.  
The exhibition was that of a human being in a monkey cage. The human being happened to be a Bushman, one

But.....

1. slavery is unchristian = JUSTIFICATIONS!

= white man's burden (kipling 1900)

= responsibility to make africans civilized

(be free one day.....)

= Bible learning (esp about obeying masters)

= education (enough to do job, not independence)

= manufactured goods to use (to work) = easier life!

= life in America is waaaaay better than Africa

(said white people)

Take up the White Man's burden—  
Send forth the best ye breed—  
Go bind your sons to exile  
To serve your captives' need;  
To wait in heavy harness  
On fluttered folk and wild—  
Your new-caught, sullen peoples,  
Half devil and half child.

Take up the White Man's burden—  
In patience to abide,  
To veil the threat of terror  
And check the show of pride;  
By open speech and simple,  
An hundred times made plain.  
To seek another's profit,  
And work another's gain.

But.....

## 2. invention of conservatism vs progressivism in New World

C = keep slavery + economy + social hierarchy as is

P = end slavery + change economy + maybe change society? equality?

this philosophical problem is everywhere – USA revolution / DOI / Constitution

Brazil has slaves till 1888 – 80 % black = massive inequality written into color society

Caribbean = black societies owned by tiny population (less than 10% most places) = state supported violence  
until progressivism in England/France (French Rev) = changes in New World

But.....

3. Sex.

black women = non human property = white men rape them (see Thomas Jefferson to Strom Thurmond)  
= temptress? = black female sexuality is dangerous, seductive, exotic, emasculating  
= mulatto children problem = property or not? in USA property, in Spain dependent on lightness  
(means black marriage + family had no legal or social basis in white community)

white women = problem. what if they like black men? what if slave revolt?  
= militarization of white male slaveholders (outnumbered 3, 5, 10-1)  
= white virginity needs protection = southern flower/belle (see Haiti Rev.)  
= white violence typical = lynching, law, (To kill Mockingbird), justify everything  
= illegality of black male sexuality, fear of strength of black male body



Hemings-Jefferson descendants, including Shay Banks and Julia Westirnen Jefferson, with Sandra Seaton

Photo by Robert Barclay



essie mae washington

## Problems

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## Effects on Africa:

1. 15m (mostly men) sent to NW

= polygamy

(men marry more than 1 woman) = (generational fight)

(= women become reduced from “wife” to trophy)

= Africa goes from being wealthy to poverty

= Black Islamic kingdoms in Sahel decline

w/ decline trade/production

(Songhay, Sudan defeated by nomadic horse peoples)

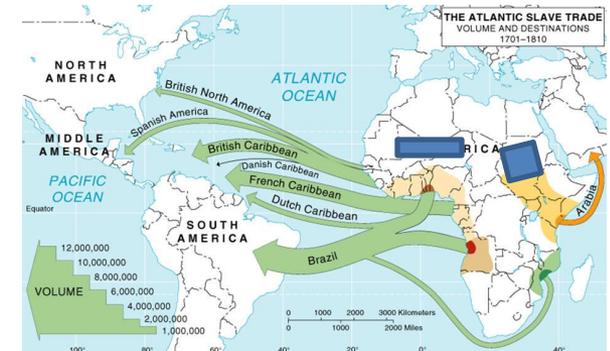
2. african trade

= no internal development

= export resources

= import manufactured items

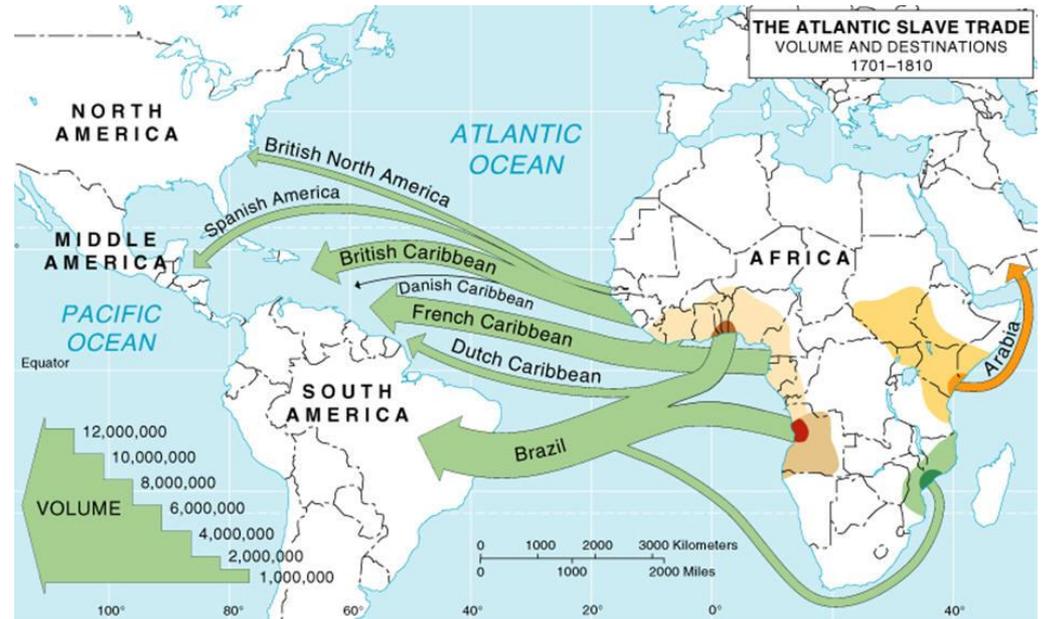
= dependent on Europe



Results:

Change of Culture  
Caribbean/Brazil

creole (french+african)  
voodoo (chritianity+poly)  
music  
dance



Africa is exported to the New World. 80% to brazil, 15% Caribbean