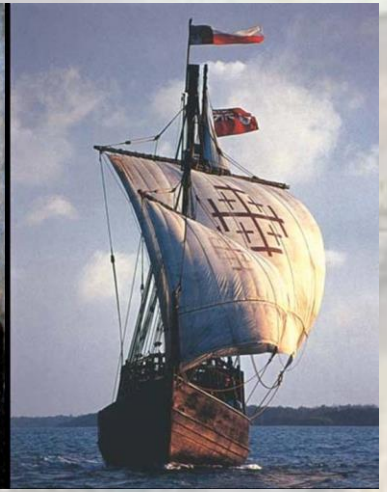
How the Spanish came to be the Colonial Masters of the Caribbean and Their Impact

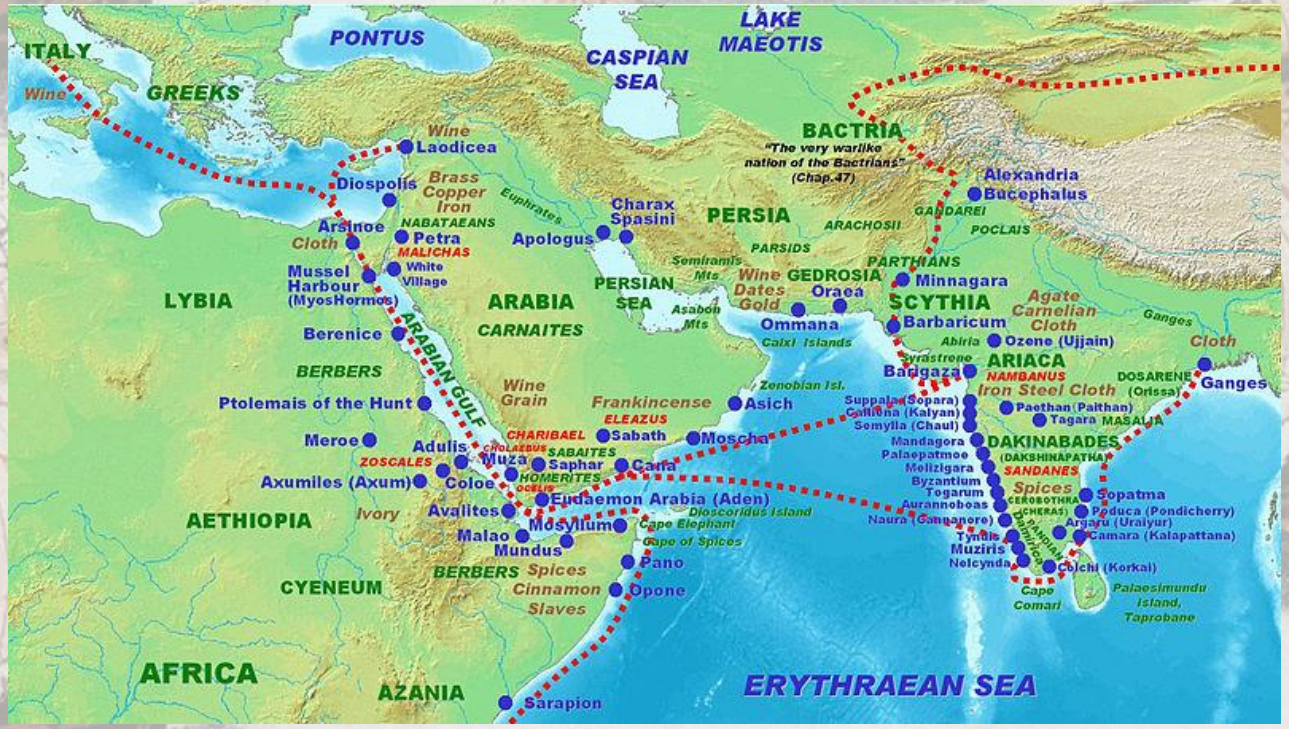


Dr. Tom

- Alexander the Great
- 4th Century B.C.

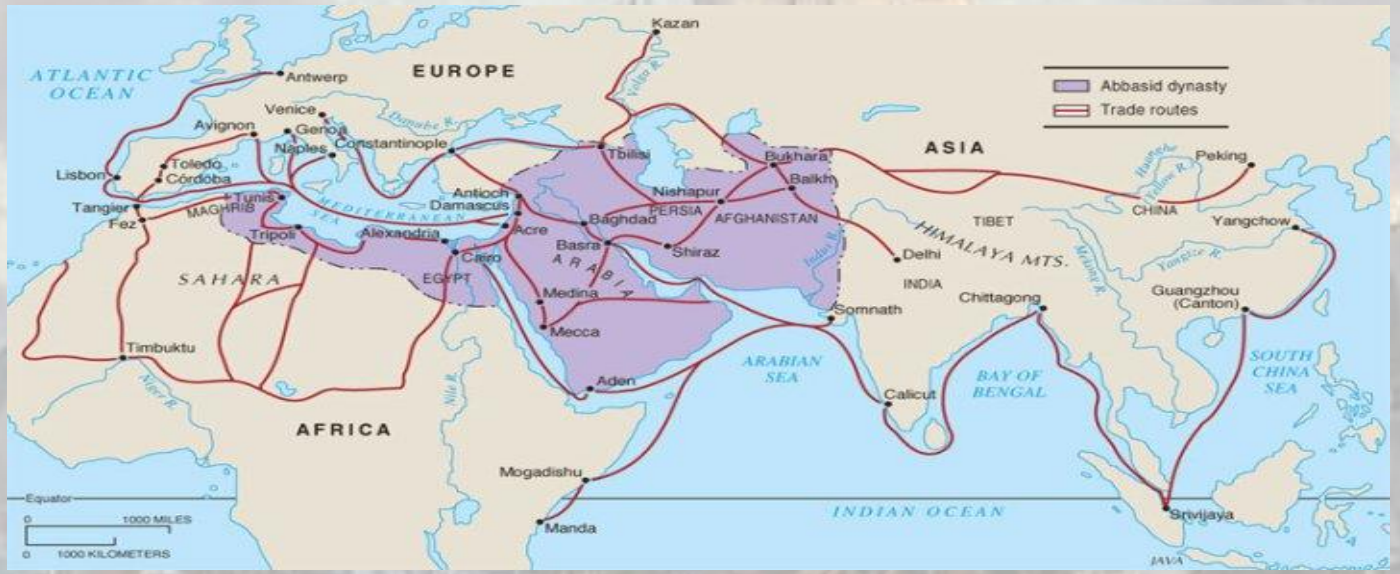
- Near East Spice Merchants were Trading Over 4,000 years Ago
- They Kept their Sources Secret and Mystical
- Spices included Peppercorn, Cinnamon, Cardamom, Ginger, Turmeric, Nutmeg, Cloves
- Arabs, Phoenicians, Israelites Traded with India for Spices 1,000 B.C.

- Arab traders Sailed Directly to India before the Christian Era
- Egyptian Port of Alexandria Traded in Spices under the Ptolemy's
- Romans commenced voyages from Egypt to India after 80 B. C. continuing through the 6th Century
- Arab Traders continued through the Middle Ages
- Spices brought as much as a 60,000 X Profit

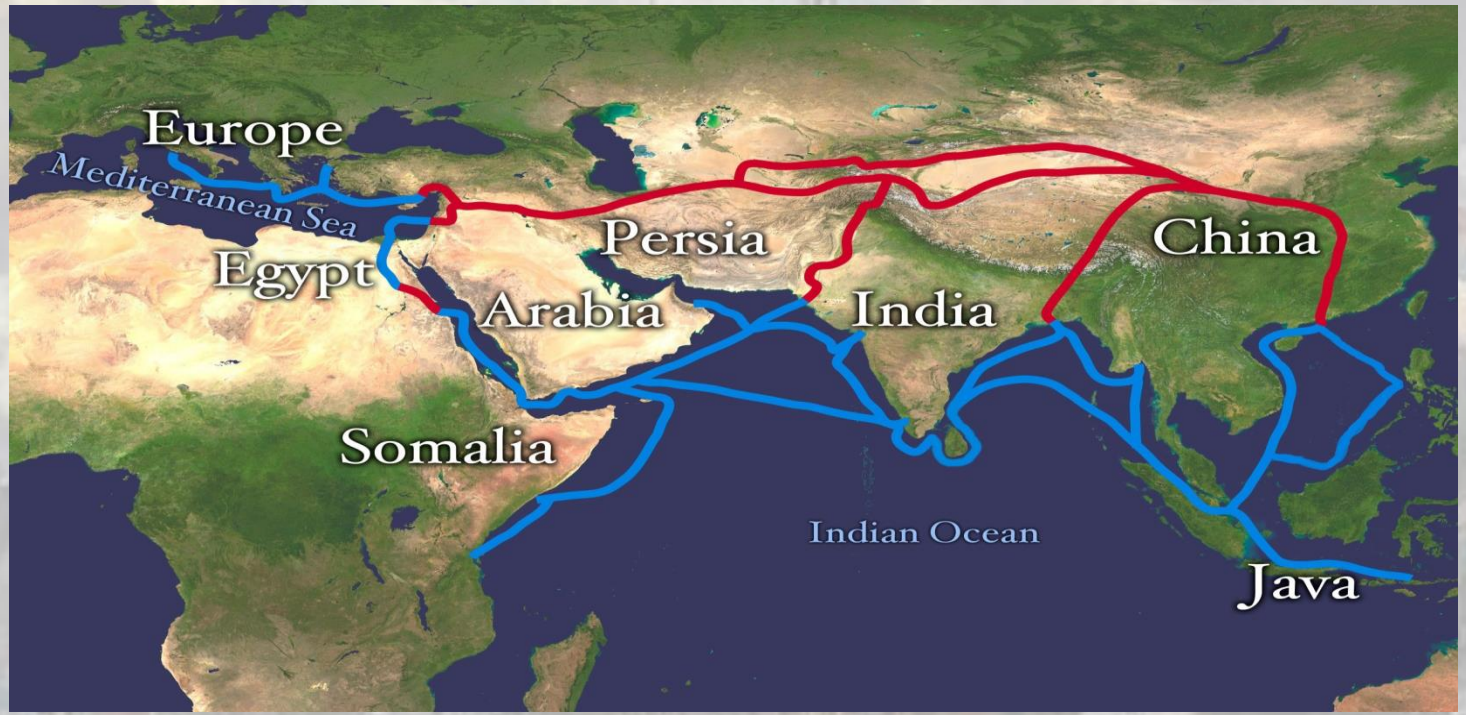


- Ancient Routes from Egypt via Red Sea
- Early Routes followed the Coastline Along Africa, Arabia, Pakistan to Kochi
- Later Routes used the Monsoon Trade Winds from Zanzibar to Kochi

Spice Trade Routes

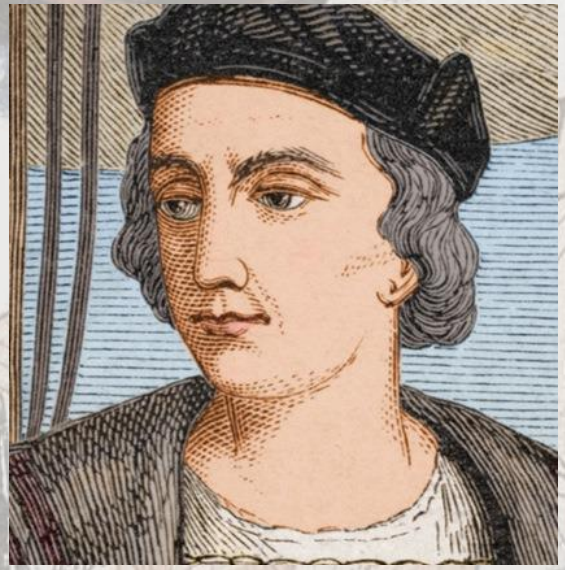


Spice Trade routes



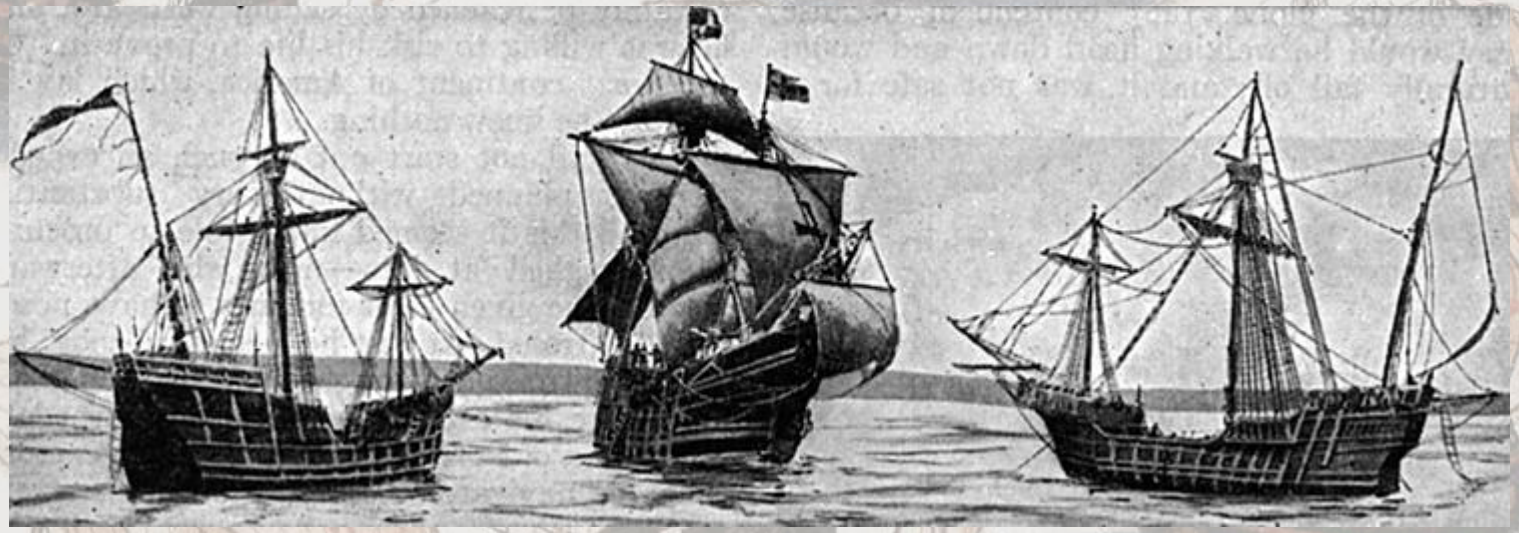
- Ancient Routes from Egypt via Red Sea
- Early Routes followed the Coastline Along Africa, Arabia, Pakistan to Kochi
- Later Routes used the Monsoon Trade Winds from Zanzibar to Kochi (North Star)

- In the 10th Century Venice and Genoa Prospered in the Spice Trade
- Venice Defeated the Genoa in 1381 to Create a Monopoly on the European Spice Trade
- No Ruler proved capable of breaking the Venetian hold on the Spice Trade Routes



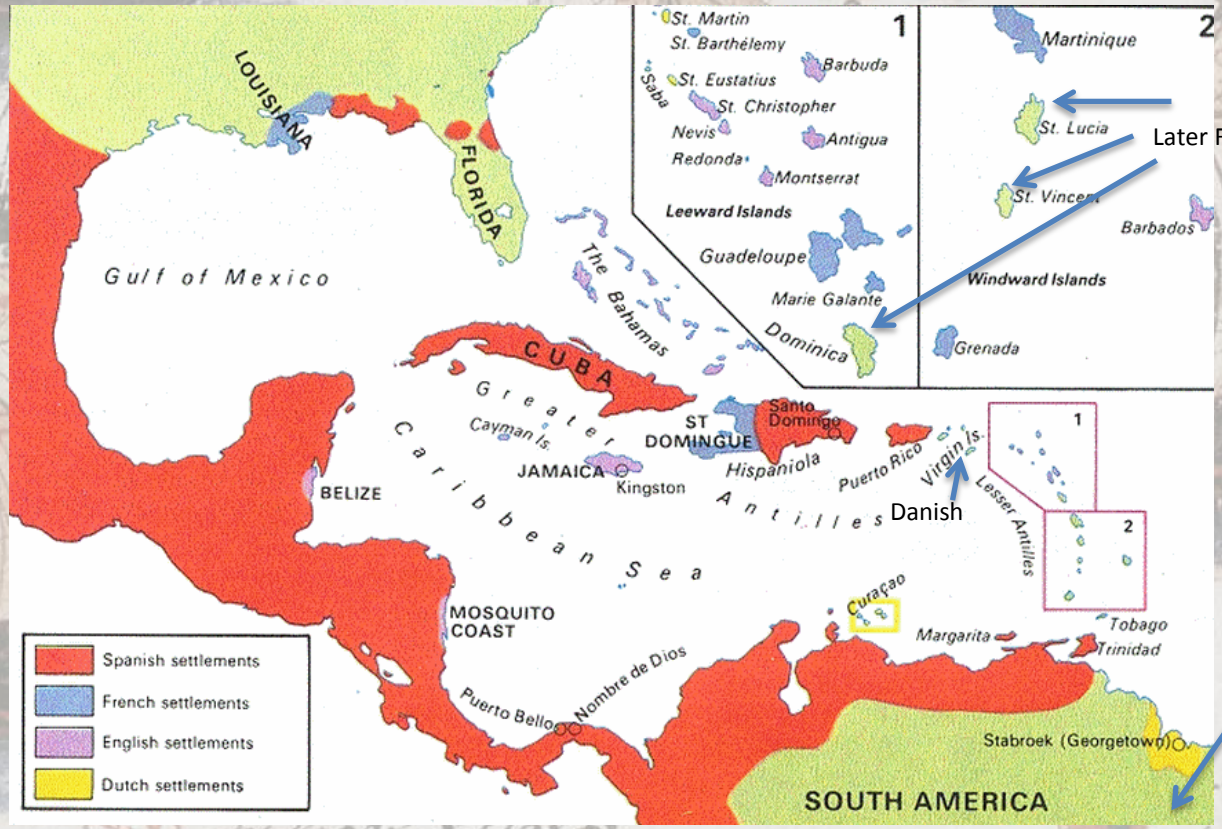
- At the End of the 15th Century explorers began to build ships in search of new ways to reach Spice-Producing India
- 1492 Christopher Columbus (Spain) and in 1497 John Cabot (England)
- Pedro Álvares Cabral (Portugal) was the first to bring spices from India to Europe via Cape of Good Hope in 1501

- Queen Isabel la Catolica of Castille
- Christopher Columbus



Cristólo Colombo Christopher Columbus Cristobal Colón

In Fourteen-Ninety-Three, Columbus Sailed the Deep Blue Sea

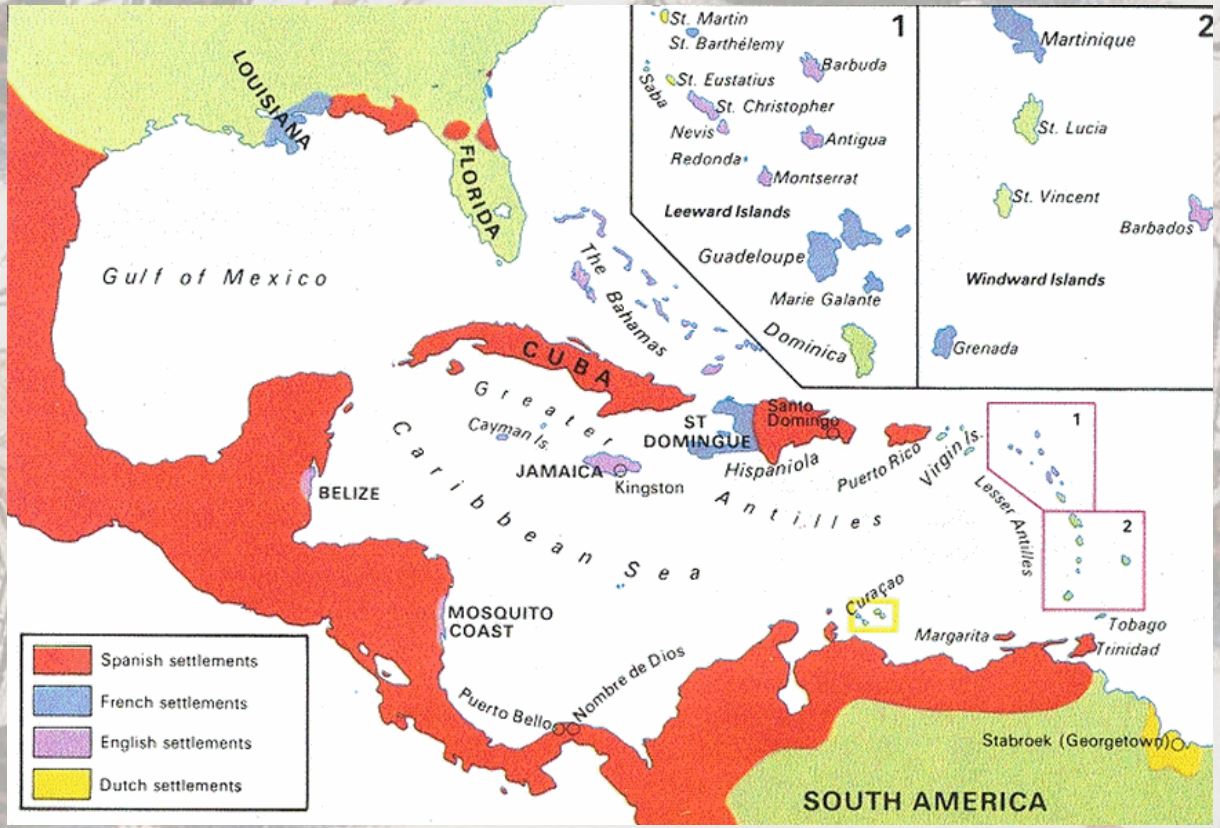


Later France

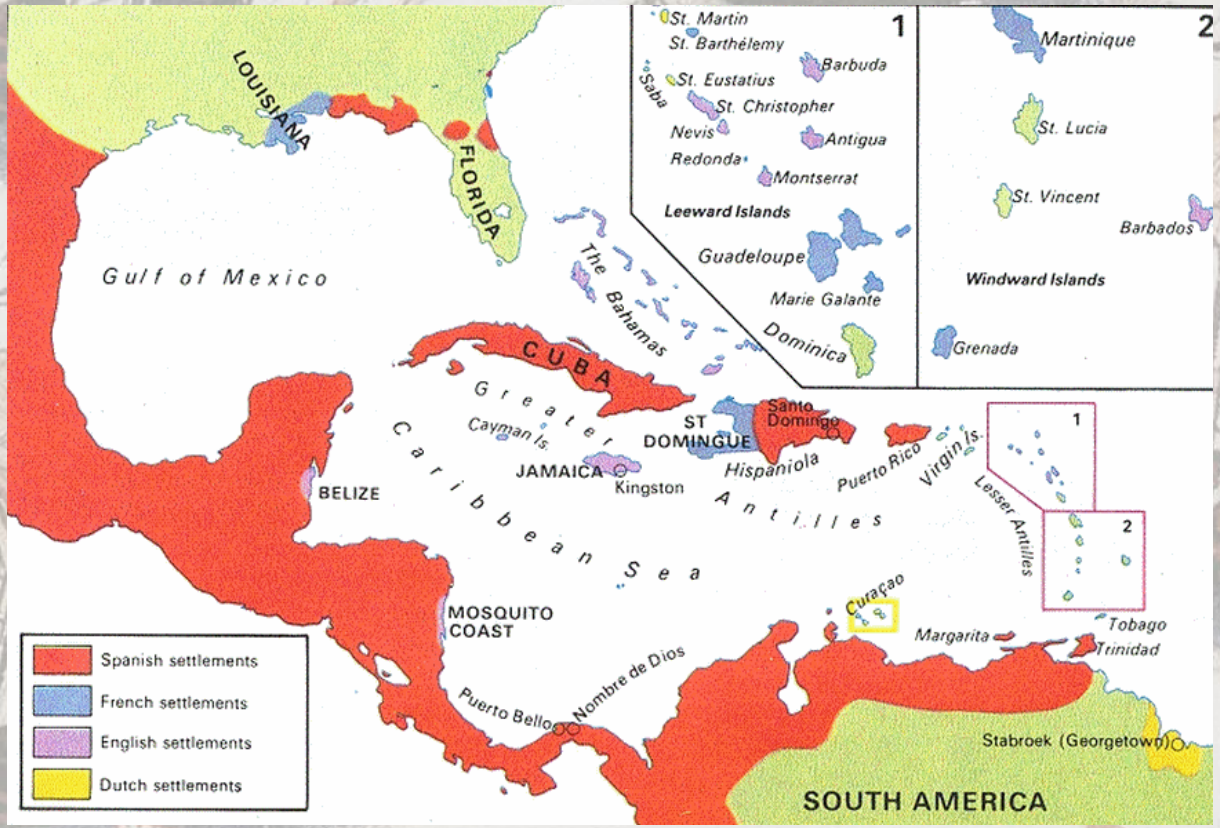
Danish

Portuguese

Dutch took over Tobago, St. Croix, Tortola (Now Brit Virgin Islands), Anguilla, Puerto Rico 17th Century



The colonization of new lands by European Nations was for the purpose of bringing money into the nation's coffers and expanding their empires
Europeans wanted items for East Asia – Spices, Gold, Silver, Gems
Needed a Cheaper way to Procure
Sugar & Tobacco were Big Money Makers
Used White Slaves, the Black Slaves for Cheap Labor



Lesser Antilles became Spice Islands and Sugar Plantations (Rum)
Greater Antilles became Sugar Plantations (Rum)
Mexico & South America – Gold & Silver

- Spanish Gold
- English Jealousy?

- Europe in the 1500's
  - King Henry VIII & Elizabeth I – Ireland/Anglicanism
  - Spanish Armada
  - Holy Roman Empire (Germany) – Claimed by Spain
  - Hapsburgs – Wanted all of Europe for Spain
  - France – wanted to get back at England for 15th Century Atrocities (Joan of Arc)
  - Huguenots

- Europe in the 1600's
  - 30 Years War
    - Luther, Calvin, & the Huguenots
    - War between German Princes (and each other), France, Spain, Denmark (and mostly everyone else)
    - Dutch vs Spanish, France joined in defending Protestants
    - Spain had the most money from its Colonies

- The Caribbean
  - Sir Francis Drake – Letter of Marque from Queen Elizabeth I to Hassle the Spanish Ships
  - Oliver Cromwell – Conquest of Jamaica
  - English Governors issuing Letters of Marque to Privateers against the Spanish
  - Dutch Wars (England)

- England took the Northern Colonies first (United States)
  - Not much gold & Silver in New England
- Spain took the Caribbean, Central & South America
  - Lots of Mineral Riches in Latin America – from the Aztecs, Maya, & Inca
  - In the Spanish colonial period, the economy was based on exploitation, both of land and of Indian labor
  - Spanish were allowed to use the land and labor any way they saw fit
  - Gold and jewels stolen from the Aztecs were triumphantly displayed throughout Spain to drum up interest and support for the colonization venture
  - Natives had to pay “rent” in Gold
  - Silver discovered in Bolivia
  - Annual Shiploads of Gold, Silver, Jewels sailed for Spain, ripe for the picking

- Black Pudding & Kidney Pie
- Spice Trade
- Money
- Glory & Power

Copyright © 2015