

THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

WHAT IS THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE?

- ▶ “the contact between any two people geographically separated from one another results in an ‘exchange’ of physical elements.”
 - ▶ Alfred Crosby

- ▶ Elements
 1. Animals
 2. Plants
 3. Microbes



NOTICE THE ORIGINS OF THE DIFFERENT ITEMS. WHICH 5 DO YOU THINK HAD THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IMPACT?



ANIMALS

- ▶ Domesticated pre-European arrival
 - ▶ Llama (South America)
 - ▶ Turkey (North America)
- ▶ Europeans brought:
 - Cattle, chickens, horses, pigs



EFFECTS

- ▶ environmental impact
 - destroyed land with their hooves.
- ▶ new forms of transportation and mobility in warfare
- ▶ fertilizer



PLANTS



- ▶ Europeans brought cash crops to the Americas and took new cash crops back.
- ▶ To Europe:
 - Potatoes, tomatoes, corn
- ▶ To the Americas:
 - Sugar, rice



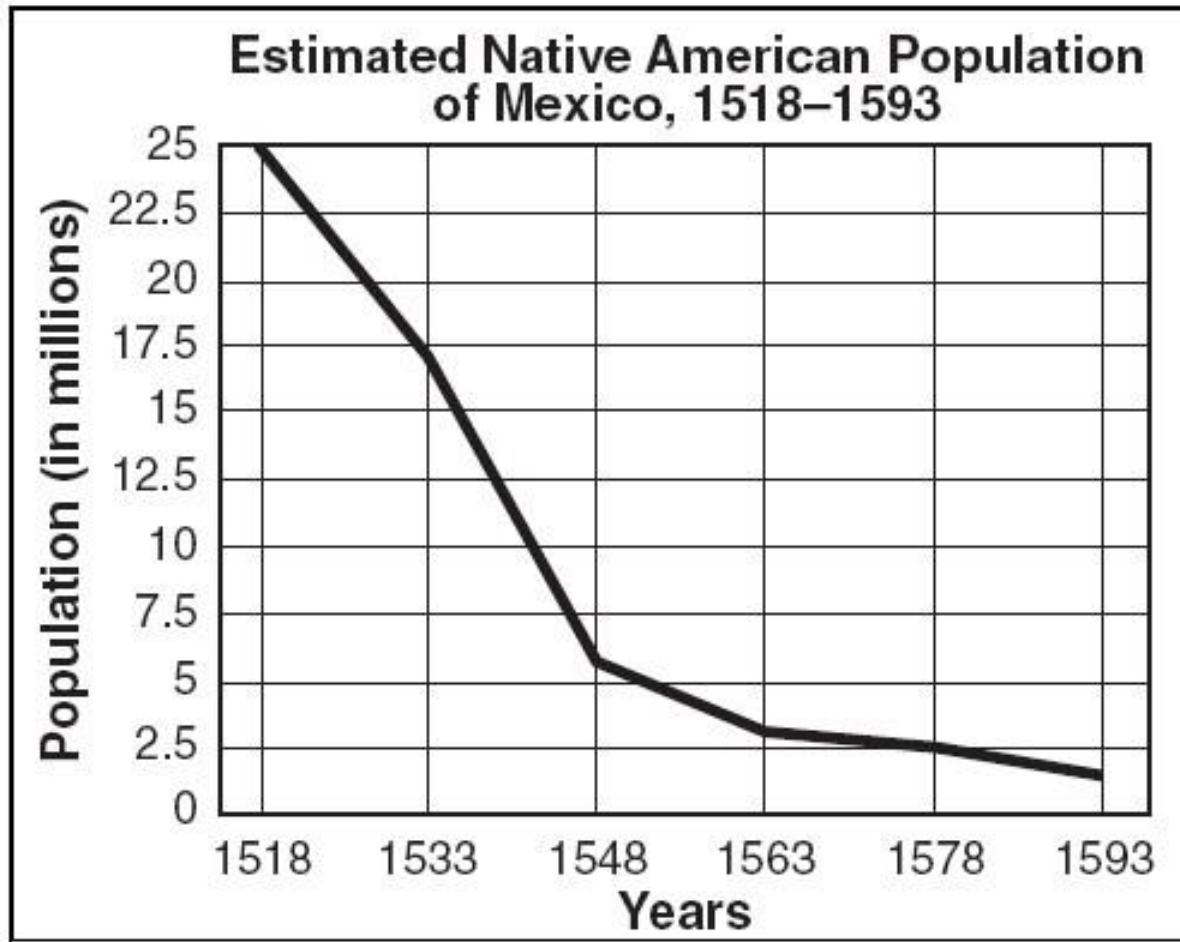
EFFECTS

- ▶ indigenous plants crowded out
 - ▶ old world crops were stronger.
- ▶ large scale agricultural production.
 - labor intensive.
- ▶ Europeans adopted crops from the Americas.
 - ▶ potato, tomato



- ▶ diversified American diets.
- ▶ exploitation of labor
 - sugar cane
- ▶ impact on Europe (potato, tomato)





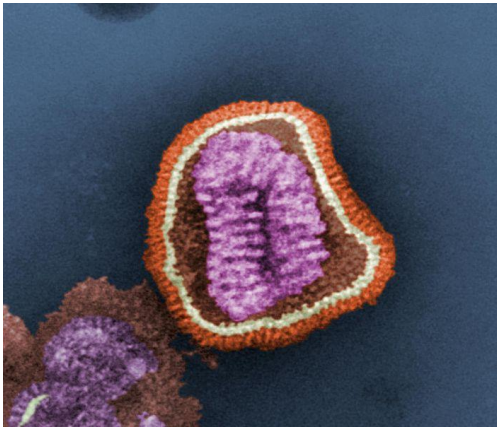
Source: James Killoran et al., *The Key to Understanding Global History*, Jarrett Publishing (adapted)

- What does this graph show?
- How can we explain this trend?
- What were the repercussions (effects) of this de-population?



DISEASE

- ▶ Smallpox, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, chicken pox, bubonic plague, scarlet fever, and influenza.
 - ▶ communicable by air and touch.



EUROPEAN BELIEFS REGARDING DISEASE

- ▶ Illness in Europe was considered to be the consequence for sinning.
 - ▶ Native Americans were seen as “heathen” or non-Christian.
 - regarded as sinners and subjected to illness as a punishment.



WHY WERE EUROPEANS IMMUNE?

- ▶ original environment, immunity
- ▶ Europeans did bring home some American diseases such as syphilis.





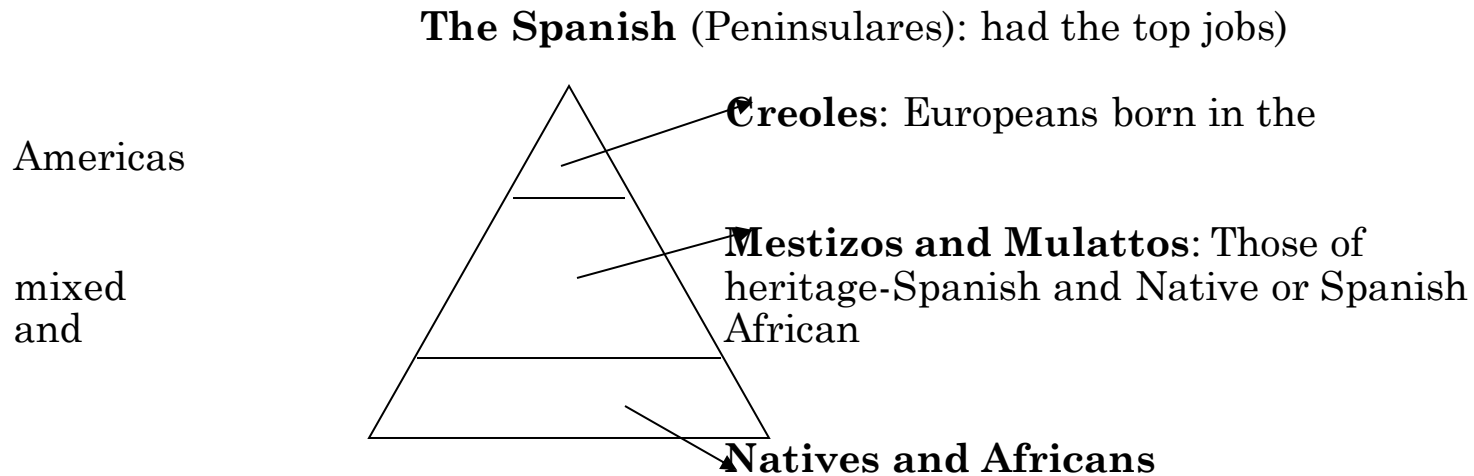
COLONIZATION

THE EFFECTS OF THE EUROPEANS ON THE AMERICAS



SPANISH COLONIES

- With the Aztec and the Inca defeated, the Spanish began to set up colonies in the Americas
- They created a new hierarchy:



- Any remaining natives were controlled by the encomienda system



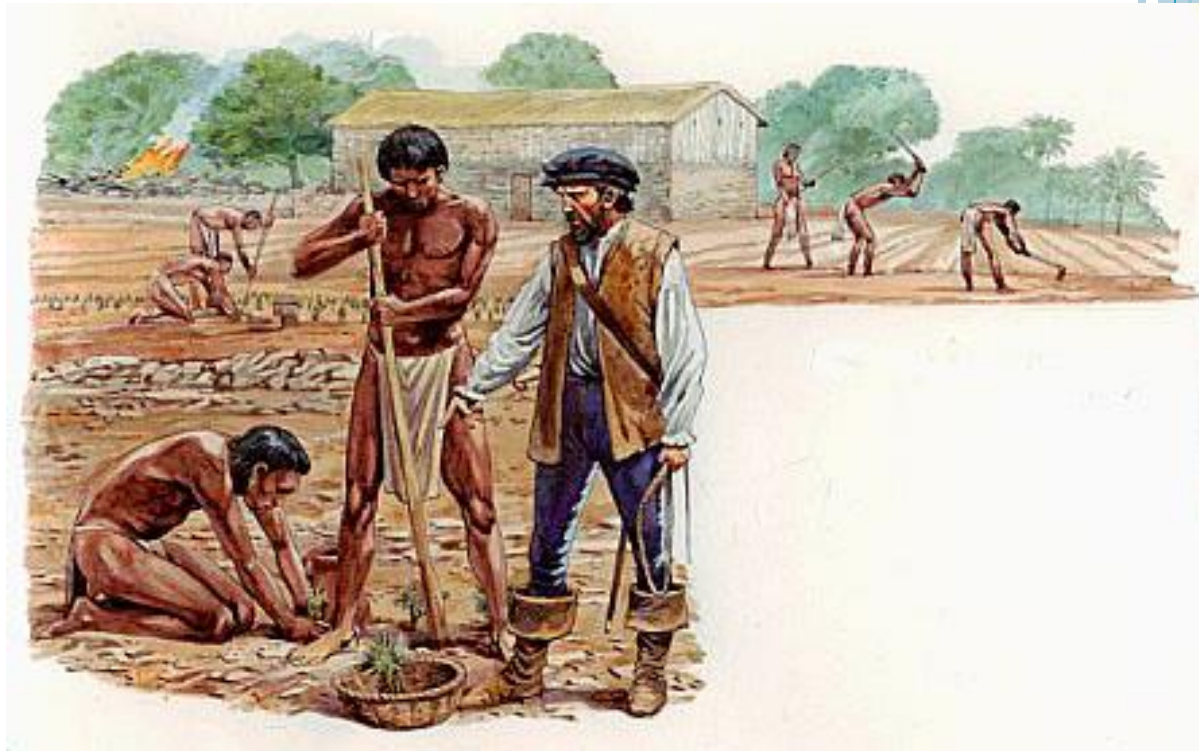
THE SPANISH COLONIES

- Led by Spanish officials called Viceroy
- Greatly influenced by Catholicism
- Mining precious metals was the basis of much of the economy



THE ENCOMIENDA SYSTEM

- Right to force Native Americans to work
- Resulted in major abuses of the Native Americans



THE IMPORTANCE OF SUGAR

Sugarcane was a valuable cash crop that grew well in the Americas



The labor was very difficult, so the Europeans forced Native Americans to work on the sugarcane plantations



Native Americans died from disease, warfare, and being overworked



The Europeans now needed someone else to work on the plantations- but who?



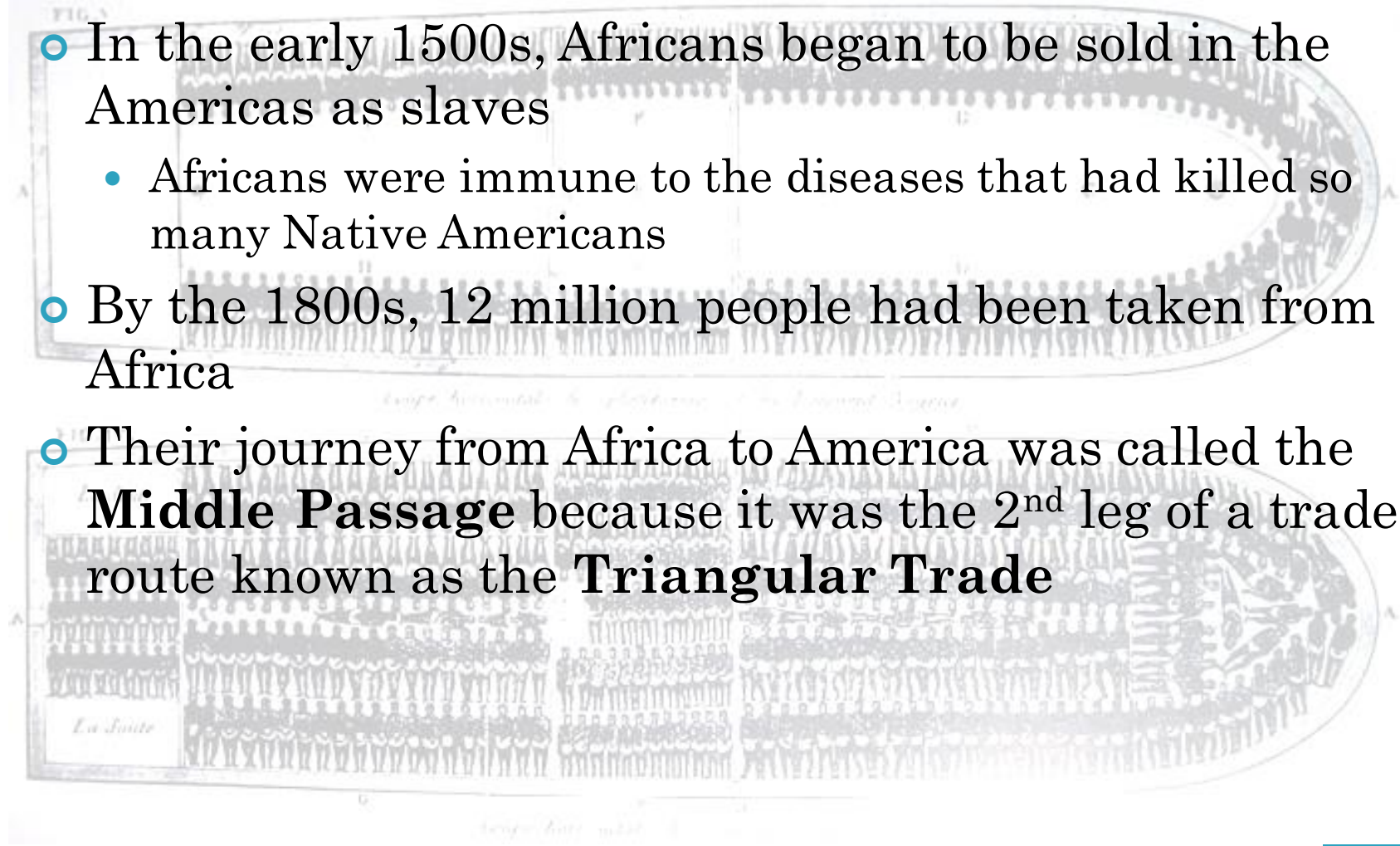
Europeans begin importing Africans to work on their sugarcane plantations: this is the beginning of the trans-Atlantic slave trade





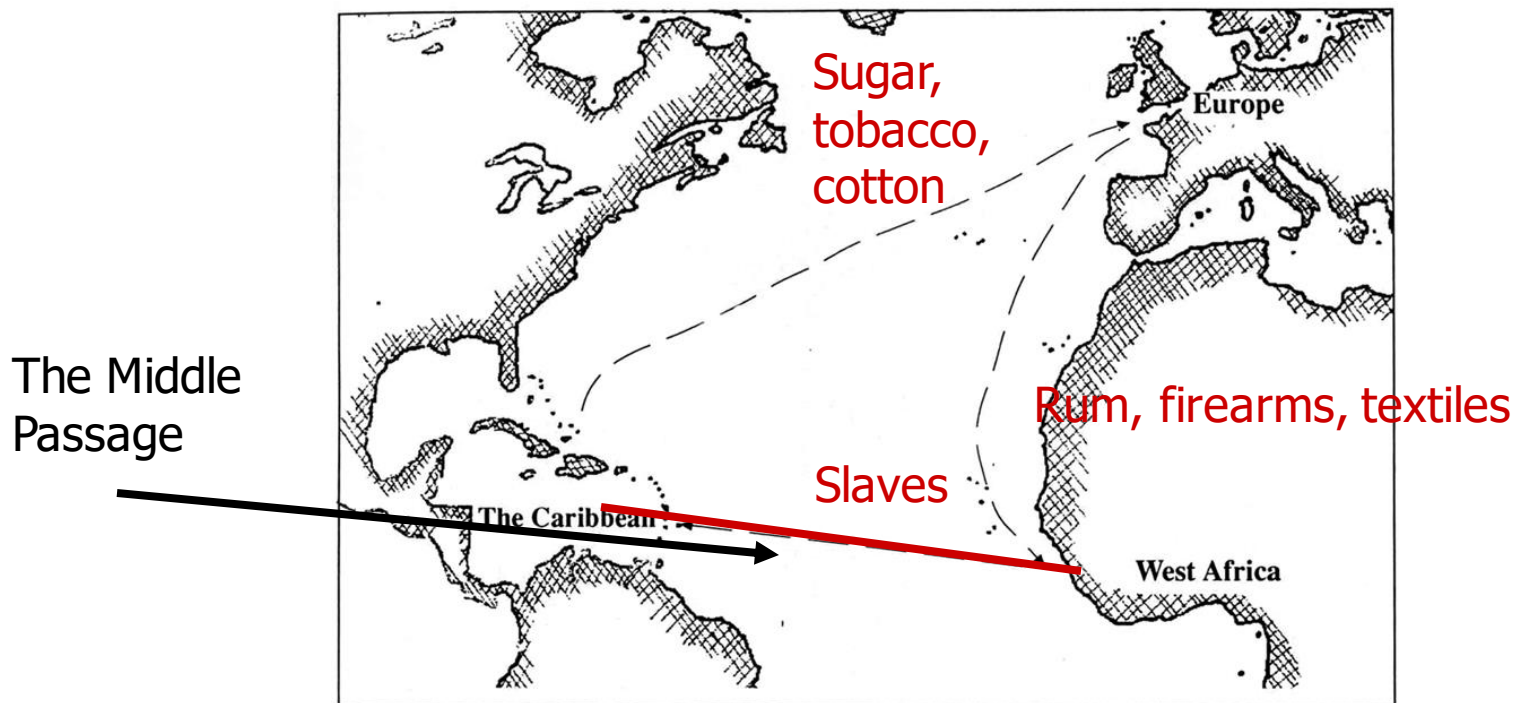
THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

- In the early 1500s, Africans began to be sold in the Americas as slaves
 - Africans were immune to the diseases that had killed so many Native Americans
- By the 1800s, 12 million people had been taken from Africa
- Their journey from Africa to America was called the **Middle Passage** because it was the 2nd leg of a trade route known as the **Triangular Trade**



THE TRIANGULAR TRADE

Those that survived the horrific journey led a life of forced labor in the American colonies



ECONOMIC RESULTS

○ Commercial Revolution

- Europeans started using money rather than the barter system
- This happened during exploration partly because of the vast amounts of gold and silver that started being sent to Europe
- But what problem can arise if there is TOO much gold and silver?

INFLATION

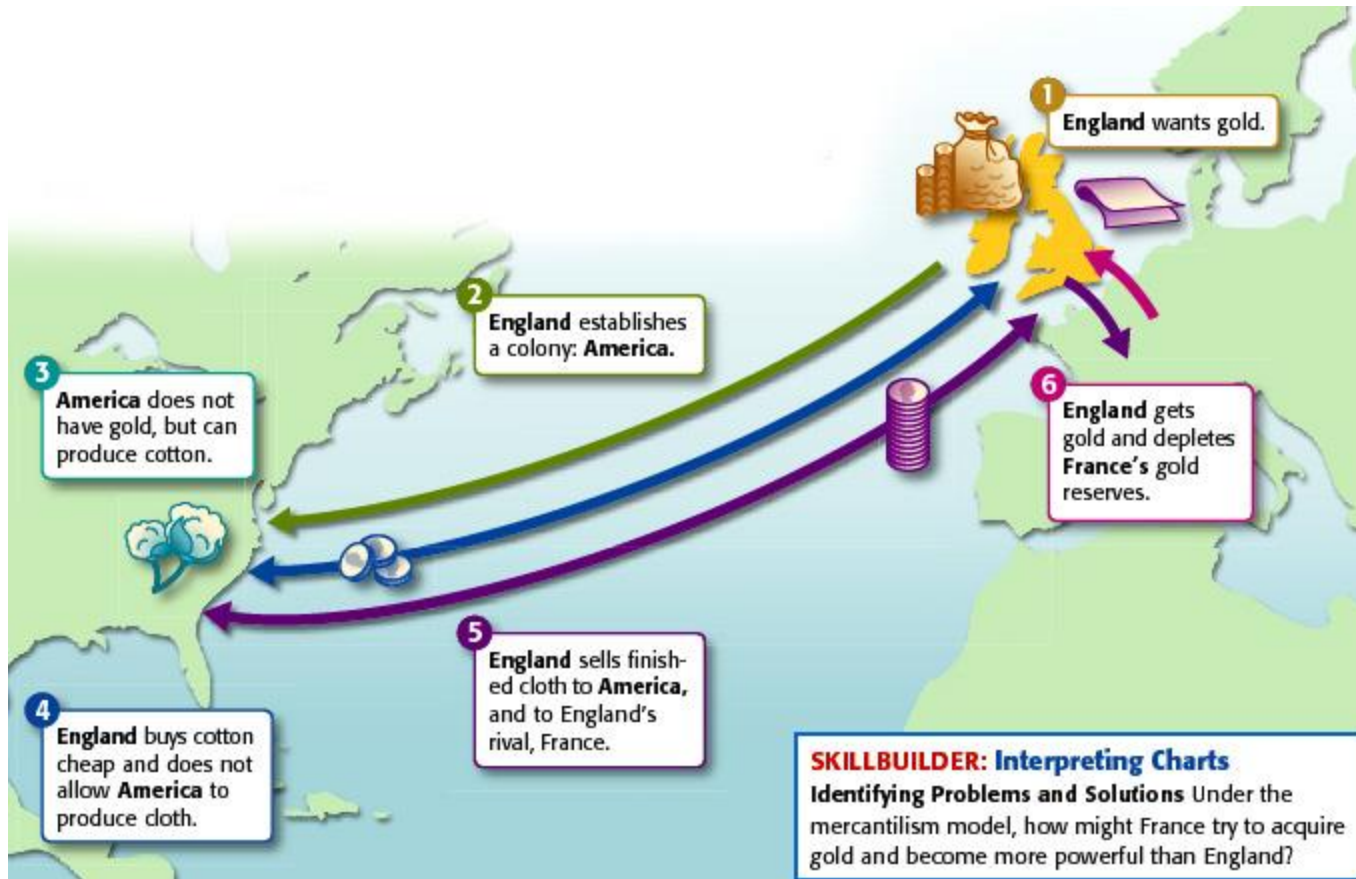


ECONOMIC RESULTS

○ Mercantilism

- An economic theory that encouraged countries to
 1. **Acquire large amounts of gold and silver**
 - So they could build a strong army and navy
 2. **Export more than they import**
 - This was known as a “favorable balance of trade”
 3. **Conquer overseas colonies to get cheap raw materials**
 - “Mother” countries in Europe can then use those materials to make goods to sell back to the colonies



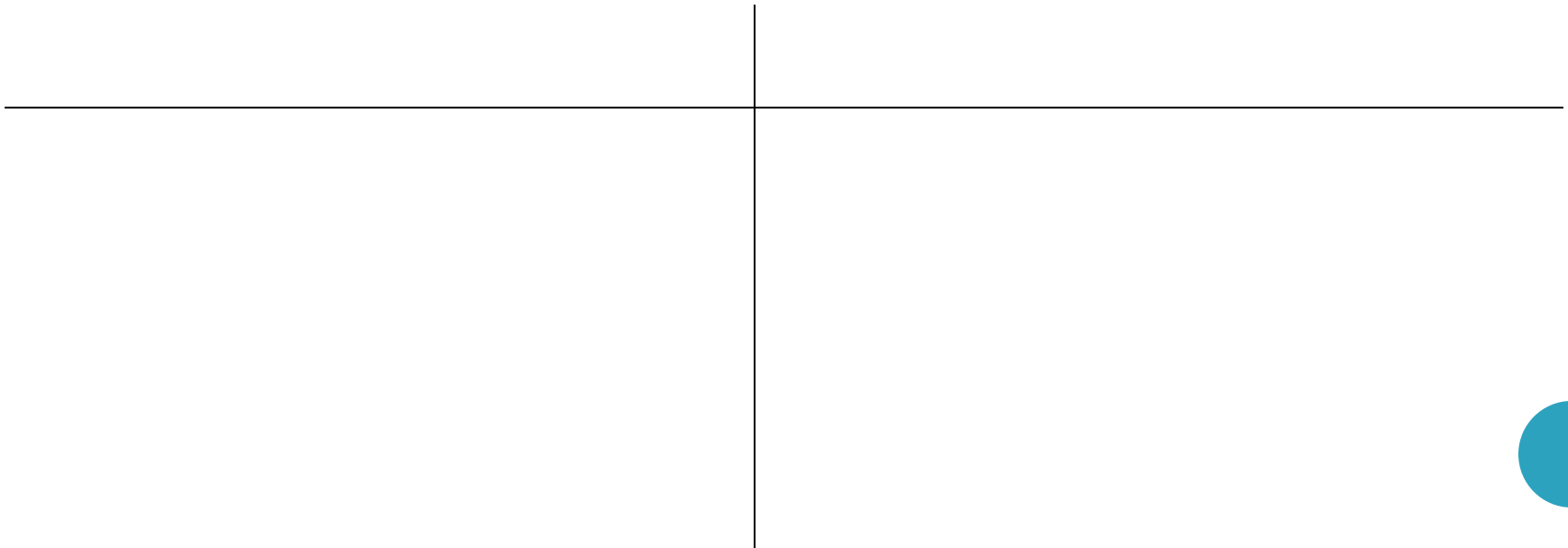


ECONOMIC RESULTS

- Joint Stock Companies
 - Groups of individual investors that pooled their money together to finance voyages of exploration

Positives

Negatives

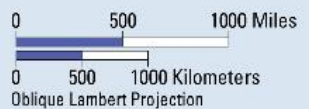




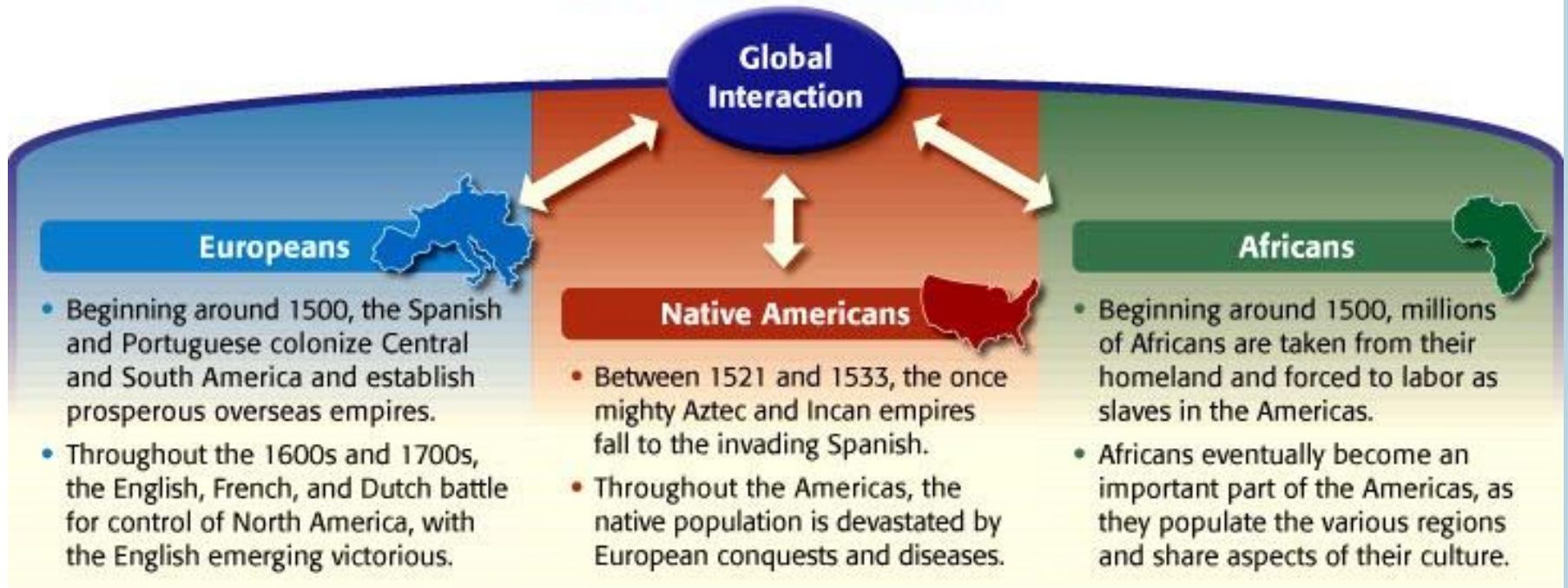
European Claims in America, 1700



- British
- French
- Portuguese
- Spanish



The Atlantic World



Europeans in the East, 1487–1700



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Place** Why would a fort at Hormuz help the Portuguese to stop trade between the Arabian Peninsula and India?
- Region** Where was the Dutch influence the greatest?