

Exploration and Conquest: Part I, The Motivation

The following 3 documents represent different motivations for colonization of the New World. Read and annotate the documents to discover what each tells us about the reasons Europe looked to colonize during this time period.

What motivations for colonization can be seen in these documents? Summarize your annotations below.

The Chronicle of Guinea	Agreements with Columbus	Why England should Colonize
Motivation:	Motivation:	Motivation:

Historical Thinking/Reading Skills

1) Look at the source of *The Chronicle of Guinea*. How might this affect the way we read this document? What might be the author’s motivation here?

2) In *Why England Should Sponsor the Colonies*, the fourth point ends with the words “to abate the pride of Spain and the supporter of the great Anti-christ of Rome.” Explain this statement by placing it in the context of 16th century cultural changes occurring in Western Europe.

3) Pick any two documents. Write a compare/contrast thesis statement that depicts similarities and differences between the motivations for exploration of the two nations.

4) Closely read the fourth paragraph of the Agreements by Columbus. In your own words describe what this part of the agreement entails.

The Chronicle of Guinea, a government history of Prince Henry the Navigator, by Gomez de Azurara, official chronicler of the royal court.

Five reasons appear why the Lord Infant [Prince Henry of Portugal] was moved to command the search for the lands of Guinea [West Africa].

...you should note well that the noble spirit of this Prince, by a sort of natural constraint, was ever urging him both to begin and to carry out very great deeds. For which reason, after the taking of Ceuta he always kept ships well armed against the Infidel [Muslims], both for war, and because he had also a wish to know the land that lay beyond the isles of Canary [in the Atlantic] and that Cape called Bojador [on the northwestern coast of Africa], [B]ecause the said Lord Infant wished to know the truth of this, - since it seemed to him that if he or some other lord did 'not endeavour to gain that knowledge, no mariners or merchants would ever dare to attempt it, and seeing also that no other prince took any pains in this matter, he sent out his own ships against those parts, to have manifest certainty of them all. And to this he was stirred up by his zeal for the service of God and of the King Edward his Lord and brother, who then reigned.

And this was the first reason of his action.

The second reason was that if there chanced to be in those lands some population of Christians, or some havens, into which it would be possible to sail without peril, many kinds of merchandise might be brought to this realm, which would find a ready market, and reasonably so, because no other people of these parts traded with them, nor yet people of any other that were known ; and also the pro-ducts of this realm might be taken there, which traffic would bring great profit to our countrymen.

The third reason was that, as it was said that the power of the Moors [Muslims, usually meaning in North Africa, and Arabic-speaking, but also used to describe West and East Africans] in that land of Africa was very much greater than was commonly supposed, and that there were no Christians among them, nor any other race of men; and because every wise man is obliged by natural prudence to wish for a knowledge of the power of his enemy ; therefore the said Lord Infant exerted himself to cause this to be fully discovered, and to make it known determinately how far the power of those infidels extended.

The fourth reason was because during the one and thirty years that he had warred against the Moors, he had never found a Christian king, nor a lord outside this land, who for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ would aid him in the said war. Therefore he sought to know if there were in those parts any Christian princes, in whom the charity and the love of Christ was so ingrained that they would aid him against those enemies of the faith.

The fifth reason was his great desire to make increase in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ and to bring to him all the souls that should be saved,-understanding that all the mystery of the Incarnation, Death, and Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ was for this sole end-namely the salvation of lost souls-whom the said Lord Infant by his travail and spending would fain bring into the true path. For he perceived that no better offering could be made unto the Lord than this; ...

But over and above these five reasons I have a sixth that would seem to be the root from which all the others pro- ceeded : and this is the inclination of the heavenly wheels... that the courses of the planets (according to the true estimate of the holy doctors) cannot cause the good man to stumble; yet it is manifest that they are bodies ordained in the secret counsels of our Lord God and run by a fixed measure, appointed to different ends, which are revealed to men by his grace, through whose influence bodies of the lower order are inclined to certain passions.

Agreements Presented by Columbus to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain, April 17 and April 30, 1492

The things supplicated and which your Highnesses give and declare to Christopher Columbus in some satisfaction...for the voyage which now, with the aid of God, he is about to make therein, in the service of your Highnesses, are as follows:

Firstly, that your Highnesses as Lords that are of the said oceans, make from this time the said Don Christopher Columbus your Admiral in all those islands and mainlands which by his hand and industry shall be discovered or acquired in the said oceans, during his life, and after his death, his heirs and successors, from one to another perpetually, with all the preeminences and prerogatives belonging to the said office....

Likewise, that your Highnesses make the said Don Christopher your Viceroy and Governor General in all the said islands and mainlands and islands which as has been said, he may discover or acquire in the said seas; and that for the government of each one and of any one of them, he may make selection of three persons for each office, and that your Highnesses may choose and select the one who shall be most serviceable to you, and thus the lands which our Lord shall permit him to discover and acquire will be better governed, in the service of your Highnesses....

Item, that all and whatever merchandise, whether it be pearls, precious stones, gold, silver, spices, and other things whatsoever, and merchandise of whatever kind, name, and manner it may be, which may be bought, bartered, discovered, acquired, or obtained within the limits of the said Admiralty, your Highnesses grant henceforth to the said Don Christopher, and will that he may have and take for himself, the tenth part of all of them, deducting all the expenses which may be incurred therein; so that of what shall remain free and clear, he may have and take the tenth part for himself, and do with it as he wills, the other nine parts remaining for your Highnesses....

Item, that in all the vessels which may be equipped for the said traffic and negotiation each time and whenever and as often as they may be equipped, the said Admiral Don Christopher Columbus may, if he wishes, contribute and pay the eighth part of all that may be expended in the equipment. And also that he may have and take of the profit, the eighth part of all which may result from such equipment....

These are executed and despatched with the responses of your Highnesses at the end of each article in the town of Santa Fe de la Vega de Granada, on the seventeenth day of April in the year of the nativity of our Savior Jesus Christ one thousand four hundred and ninety-two. . .

Forasmuch as you, Christopher Columbus, are going by our command, with some of our ships and with our subjects, to discover and acquire certain islands and mainland in the ocean, and it is hoped that, by the help of God, some of the said islands and mainland in the said ocean will be discovered and acquired by your pains and industry; and therefore it is a just and reasonable thing that since you incur the said danger for our service you should be rewarded for it...it is our will and pleasure that you, the said Christopher Columbus, after you have discovered and acquired the said islands and mainland in the said ocean, or any of them whatsoever, shall be our Admiral of the said islands and mainland and Viceroy and Governor therein, and shall be empowered from that time forward to call and entitle yourself Don Christopher Columbus, and that your sons and successors in the said office and charge may likewise entitle and call themselves Don, and Admiral and Viceroy and Governor thereof; and that you may have power to use and exercise the said office of Admiral, together with the said office of Viceroy and Governor of the said islands and mainland...and to hear and determine all the suits and causes civil and criminal appertaining to the said office of Admiralty, Viceroy, and Governor according as you shall find by law,...and may have power to punish and chastise delinquents, and exercise the said offices...in all that concerns and appertains to the said offices...and that you shall have and levy the fees and salaries annexed, belonging and appertaining to the said offices and to each of them, according as our High Admiral in the Admiralty of our kingdoms levies and is accustomed to levy them.

***Why England Should Sponsor Colonies*, Richard Hakluyt (excerpts)**

A brief collection of certain reasons to induce her Majesty and the state to retake in hand the western voyage and the planting there.

- The soil yields and may be made to yield all the several commodities of Europe.
- The passage thither and home is either too long nor too short, but easy, and to be made twice in the year.
- And where England now for certain hundred years last passed, by the peculiar commodity of wool, and of later years, by clothing of the same, has raised itself from meaner state to greater wealth and much higher honor, might, and power than before, to the equalizing of the princes of the same to the greatest potentates of this part of the world; it comes now so to pass that by the great endeavor of the increase of the trade of wool in Spain and in the West Indies, now daily more and more multiplying, that the wool of England, and the cloth made of the same, will become [inferior] , and every day more base than the other; which, prudently weighed, it behooves the realm, if it mean not to return to former old means and baseness, but to stand in present and late former honor, glory, and force, and not negligently and slopingly to slide into beggary, to foresee and the plant at Norembega or some like place, were it not for anything else but for the hope of the sale of our wool. . .
- This enterprise may keep the Spanish King from flowing over all the face of that wild and uninhabited America, if we seed and plant there in time . . . Her Majesty may, having won good and royal havens, have plenty of excellent trees for masts, of goodly timber to build ships and to make great navies, of pitch, tar, hemp, and all things for a royal navy, and that for no price, and without money or request. How easy a matter it may be . . . to be the best and most cunning shipwrights of the world, to be lords of all those seas, and to spoil Philip's Indian navy, and to deprive him of yearly passage of his treasure to Europe, and to abate the pride of Spain and of the supporter of the great Anti-christ of Rome.
- If the sea coast serve for making of salt, and the inland for wine, oils, oranges, lemons, figs, and for making of iron, all which much more is hoped, without sword drawn, we shall cut the comb of the French, of the Spanish, of the Portuguese, and of enemies, and of doubtful friends, to the abating of their wealth and force, and to the greater saving of the wealth of the realm.
- The substances serving, we may out of those parts receive the mass wrought wares that now we receive out of France, Flanders, and Germany, and so we may subdue the pride of some enemies of this realm, or at the least in part purchase those wares, that now we buy dearly of the French and Flemish, better cheap; and in the end drive them out of trade to idleness for the setting of our people to work.