



**Was European colonization of the  
America's inevitable?**



# Columbian Exchange



Learning Target:

Students will describe how the Columbian Exchange transformed European and Native American societies.

What are the implications of European involvement in the Americas?

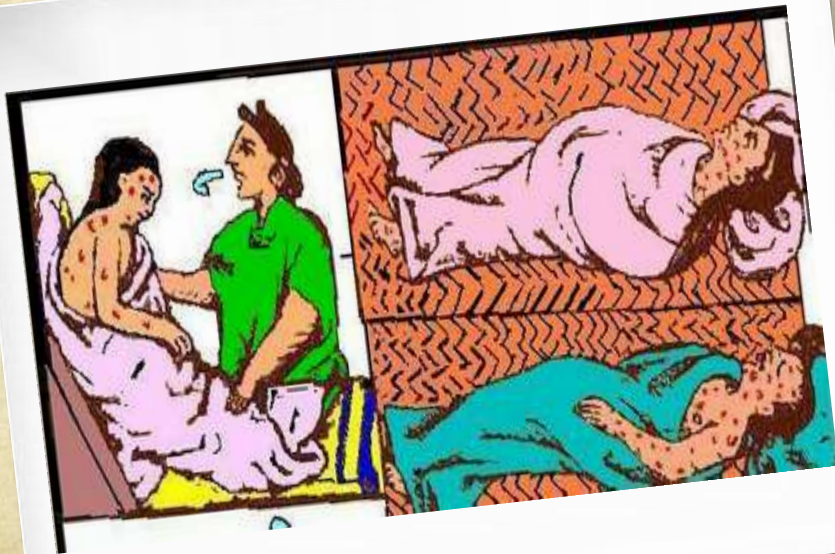




## Causes for the Age of Exploration: Gold, Glory, & God

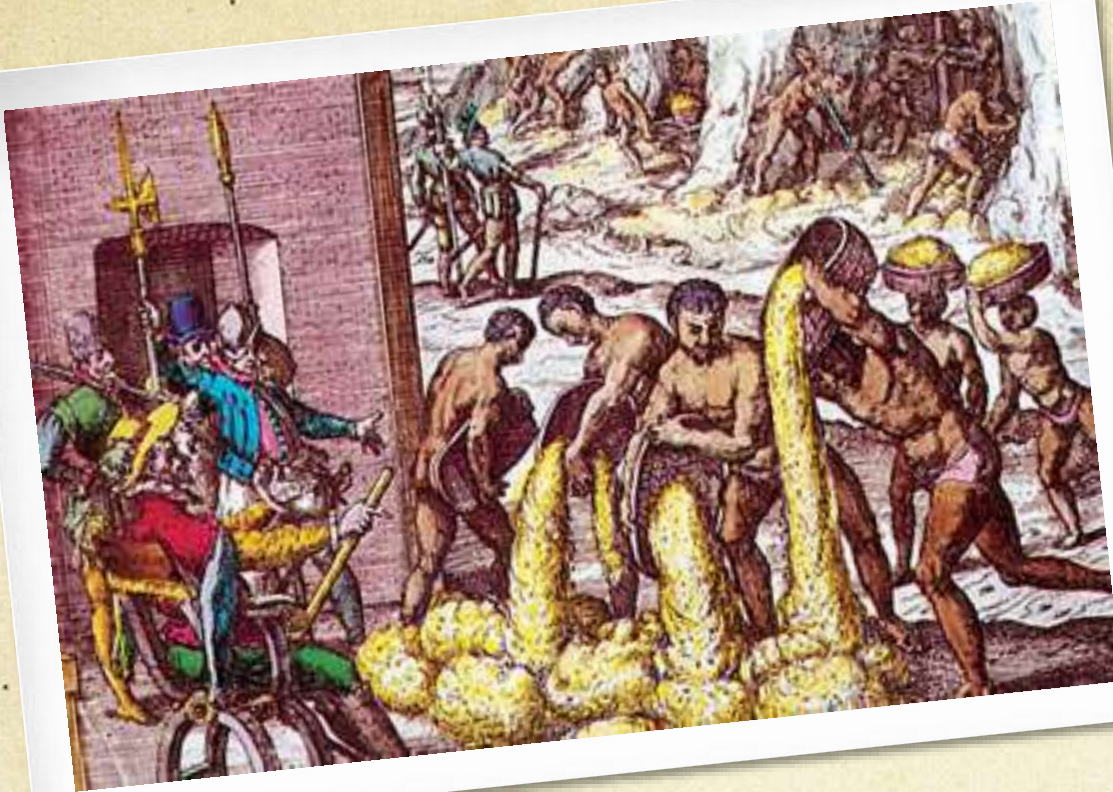
The result transformed societies of Europe and the America's forever.

New plants, animals, and technology altered the natural environment of North America and affected interactions among various groups in the colonial period.



After European contact, North American colonial-era societies were shaped by the exchange of commodities, peoples, diseases, and ideas.





Many Native Americans were forced into slave labor, off of their land, and often willingly fled the places the Spanish colonized to avoid further conflict. The (often forced) migration of Native Americans continued to affect the peopling of North America throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.





The transmission of “Old World” diseases from Europe and Asia were devastating to Native American populations who had no immunity to these new pathogens.





The deadlier weapons of the Europeans proved to be an advantage in many early conflicts with the Native Americans. Violent conflicts continued between the descendants of European colonizers and Native Americans into the 19<sup>th</sup> century.





## *Spanish and Portuguese Exploration*

Spanish and Portuguese conquistadors brought diseases that rapidly infected and killed native populations they encountered. Among these smallpox, influenza, and typhus.







As a result of intermarriage and children among the Spanish and Portuguese and the Native Americans, new conceptions of race emerged. Mestizo was a term used to refer to a person of mixed Spanish/ Portuguese and Native American ancestry. Eventually, the term castas was used more often. (Mestizo =part of the casta system) Mestizos quickly became the majority in Central and South America.



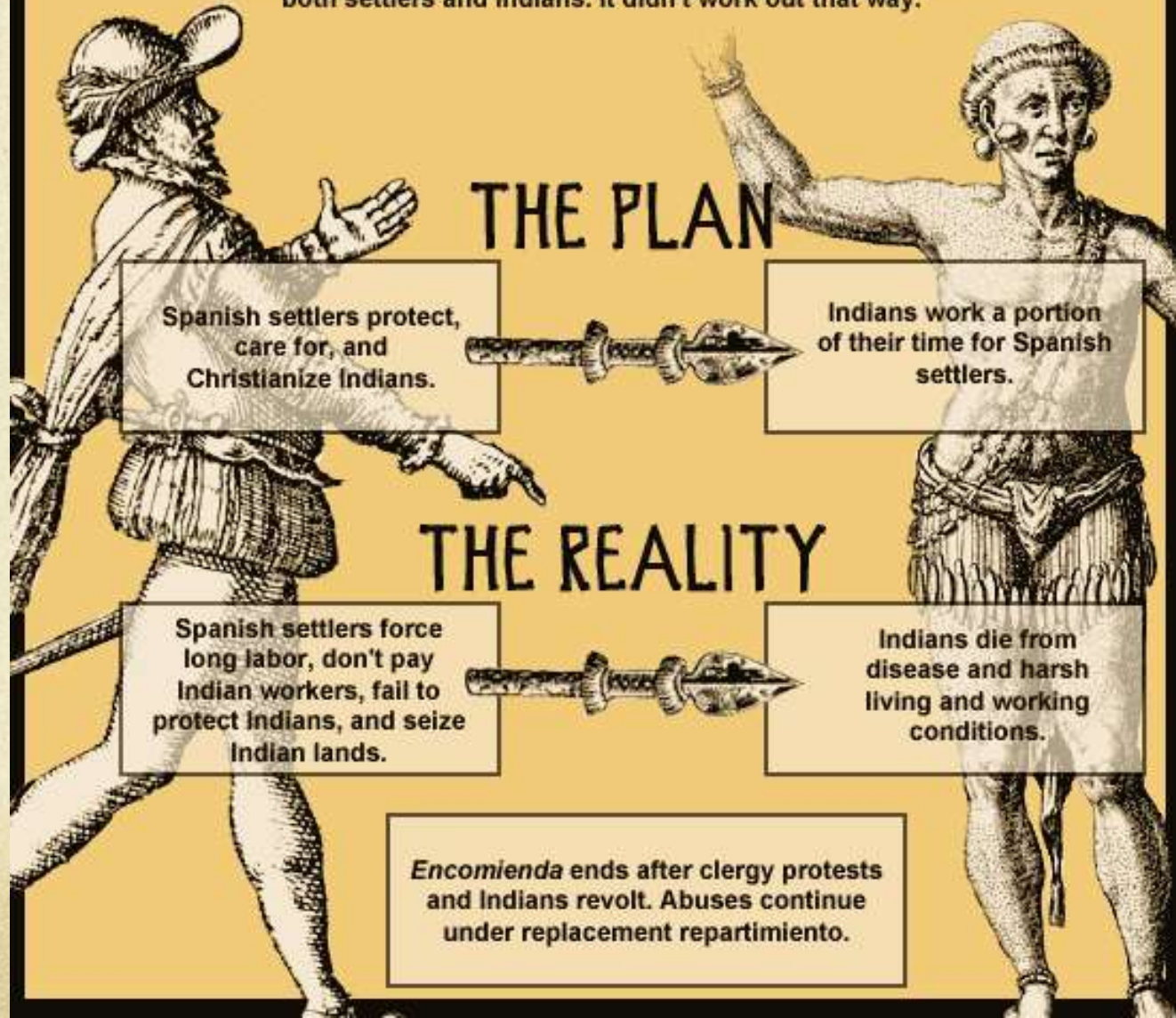


Following the lead of Portugal's Henry the Navigator, many European nations explore Africa. Initially, explorers were motivated to convert people to Christianity but soon became more interested in the profitable resources and slave trafficking.



# Encomienda: The Plan and the Reality

The Spanish claimed that the encomienda system would benefit both settlers and Indians. It didn't work out that way.







- European expansion into the Western Hemisphere caused intense social/ religious, political, and economic competition in Europe and the promotion of empire building.





Feudalism vs. Capitalism



## Changes in Europe:

- New crops result in population growth
  - Mineral wealth
  - Technology & international trade



## Conceptions of Race/ Ethnicity:

--How to deal with people different than me? How civilized are these new people by European standards?

--White superiority





-Native Americans resisted European forced assimilation (social issues such as religion, gender roles and the family, and the relationship of the people with the environment).

-Slaves attempted to preserve their culture by combining elements of both worlds. (discussion of the Gullah people)

-Sabotage, rebellion, & escape