

ENGLISH IMPACT ON GLOBALIZATION FROM 1500 TO THE PRESENT

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Introduction

During the fourteenth century, exploration included many players from Europe, especially the English. The English made moves that helped them become the most dominant in colonizing the Americas. England was motivated to find new trade routes that would benefit their community. Religion was the main priority in the everyday lives of Europeans, and they wanted to world to know who was most important. Globalization impacted the development of states from 1500 to the present due to new trade routes formed between the old and new world, along with the need to convert native populations to Christianity. With these new needs, globalization changed the way the world was seen and how different cultures exchanged products and goods.

Social and Philosophical Forces

Social Forces

Europeans decided to explore the world due to many factors, including religious tyranny and disease. After the end of the bubonic plague and the demographic collapse, people wanted to restore their communities and revive long-distance trade and communication networks.¹ A social force that contributed to globalization during this time also included the want to expand an empire into America; they were searching for wealth from the likes of gold and gems. In addition, the English were in search of new trade routes for the discovery of riches in China and the Indies; they also wanted to search for Spanish ships and the treasures they carried.² Europeans hoped that land to the West would be a new place of peace and plenty, leading to

¹ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

² "Exploration of the New World." n.d. Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Accessed April 8, 2022. <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/story-of-virginia/chapter/exploration-new-world>.

Jamestown being established by the Virginia Company of London in 1607, issued by James I.³ Spain was also on a quest for gold, leading them to conquer several empires in South America; Spain earned riches in gold and silver from Mexico, Central America, and South America.⁴

Philosophies and Religions

The settlement of colonies, like Jamestown, was motivated by religion. Throughout the years leading up to settled colonies, Europe went through religious reformations, mainly Protestant and Catholic, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. These reforms led to religious wars between Protestant and Roman Catholic communities; these wars led to a conflict known as the Thirty Years' War.⁵

During the Thirty Years' War and the reign of James I, a group of people who believed the Church of England was corrupt and sought to break it traveled to the new world.⁶ This group, known as pilgrims, settled in present-day Massachusetts after being blown off course. They believed that the new world would allow them to live and worship their beliefs.⁷

³ "Exploration of the New World." n.d. Virginia Museum of History & Culture. Accessed April 8, 2022. <https://virginiahistory.org/learn/story-of-virginia/chapter/exploration-new-world>.

⁴ National Geographic Society. 2020. "Motivations for Colonization." National Geographic Society. May 19, 2020. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/motivations-colonization/>.

⁵ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

⁶ National Geographic Society. 2020. "Motivations for Colonization." National Geographic Society. May 19, 2020. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/motivations-colonization/>.

⁷ National Geographic Society. 2020. "Motivations for Colonization." National Geographic Society. May 19, 2020. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/motivations-colonization/>.

Throughout the years, the pilgrims were followed by others who were encouraged by Britain to settle in the new world, which would benefit Britain with raw materials found and sent back to Europe.⁸

During this time of exploration, many countries traveled to the new world and hoped to convert the natives to Christianity. From the first-hand account of Jonas Michaelius and the Dutch attempt to convert Indians, he states, “As to the natives of this country, I find them entirely savage and wild, strangers to all decency, yea, uncivil and stupid as garden stakes, proficient in all wickedness ungodliness, devilish men, who serve nobody but the Devil, that is, the spirit which in their language they call Menetto, under which title they comprehend everything that is subtle and crafty and beyond human skill and power. They have so much witchcraft, divination, sorcery and wicked arts, that they can hardly be held in by any bands or locks. They are a; thievish and treacherous as they are tall, and in cruelty they are altogether inhuman, more than barbarous, far exceeding the Africans.”⁹ Knowing what we know from these accounts shows us what Europeans thought about the natives in the new world, making it essential that they convert them to Christianity as quickly as possible.

Economic Forces

Economic Forces

Economic forces that contributed to the development of colonial America were seen in trade, for example, mercantilism. Starting around 1640, Great Britain saw the benefits of

⁸ National Geographic Society. 2020. “Motivations for Colonization.” National Geographic Society. May 19, 2020. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/motivations-colonization/>.

⁹ Michaelius, Jonas. “Attempts to Christianize the Indians.” *Attempts to Christianize the Indians*, August 2017, 129. <https://search-ebscohost-com.ezproxy.snhu.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=khh&AN=21212594&site=hrc-live&scope=site>.

mercantilism with the raw materials and resources from the colonies.¹⁰ Tobacco, sugar, indigo, ginger, cotton, and dye-woods were exported from the south. From New England, fish, timber, and ships were sent.¹¹ According to the article “Making Mercantilism Work: London Merchants and Atlantic Trade in the Seventeenth Century by Nuala Zahedieh,” The colonies received manufactured goods, food, labor (white servants and enslaved Black people), and commercial services.¹² With these trade services, the colonies were given a chance to thrive.

Goods and Commodities

Fur trading and tobacco became commodities between the colonies and Europe. Fur trading began when fishermen bartered for fur with local people.¹³ Explorers found an entrance to rich fur-producing regions through the Hudson Strait and Hudson Bay, giving them the start to systematically exploit northern areas.¹⁴ Indigenous peoples trapped animals for Europeans and exchanged pelts for manufactured goods such as wool blankets, iron pots, firearms, and distilled spirits; the hides went mainly to Europe.¹⁵ Tobacco became a commodity between the colonists

¹⁰ Kramer, Leslie. 2022. “How Mercantilism Affected Great Britain’s Colonies.” Investopedia. January 25, 2022. <https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/041615/how-did-mercantilism-affect-colonies-great-britain.asp>.

¹¹ Zahedieh, Nuala. 1999. “Making Mercantilism Work: London Merchants and Atlantic Trade in the Seventeenth Century.” *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 9: 143–58. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3679396>.

¹² Zahedieh, Nuala. 1999. “Making Mercantilism Work: London Merchants and Atlantic Trade in the Seventeenth Century.” *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 9: 143–58. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3679396>.

¹³ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

¹⁴ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

¹⁵ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

and Europe when settlers learned of the crop from natives in the area. In 1612, English settlers cultivated the first commercial crop of tobacco in Virginia, and by 1616, Virginia colonists exported 2,300 pounds of tobacco.¹⁶ By the late seventeenth century, most consumers used tobacco socially.

Political Forces

Events

There have been many different political events throughout the centuries that may have affected globalization. Two that stick out are witch hunts and religious wars in Europe and the New England colonies. Religion played a large part in the everyday life of Europeans during this time, and religious divisions helped fuel social and political conflict.¹⁷ Witch hunts began because of the divide between Protestants and Roman Catholics; Europeans believed certain people possessed powers to influence human affairs.¹⁸ Witchcraft became an easy explanation for crops going bad, an outbreak of fires, or unexpected deaths.¹⁹ At the end of the seventeenth century, witch hunts extended into the colonies, most famously in Salem, Massachusetts.

As seen in a letter from Thomas Brattle in 1692, the “proof and evidence” was brought to the Salem Justices of those accused of witchcraft in Salem. Brattle mentions how the opinion of

¹⁶ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

¹⁷ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

¹⁸ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

¹⁹ Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

one Mr. Alden can be changed because of an encounter with a child and how he seemed to bring this child out of a fit.²⁰

In an article by Becky Little, “How Medieval Churches Used Witch Hunts to Gain More Followers,” she explains how two economists, Peter Leeson and Jacob Russ, argue that the Protestant church and the Catholic Church used witchcraft as proof that they were the best church to protect others from Satan.²¹

Religious wars seemed to be a common occurrence during the sixteenth century. Religious tension between the Protestant and Roman Catholic communities saw war between them. For example, in 1588, King Philip II of Spain attempted to force England to return to the Roman Catholic church by sending the Spanish Armada to dethrone the Protestant Queen Elizabeth.²²

Forces of Globalization

Events or Trends in Neighboring Areas

Once Portugal discovered land in the West, it created a trend between neighboring nations to explore the New World. Spain, France, the Netherlands, and England soon decided that they needed to find out more about this new place.²³ Soon after, colonization or the desire to

²⁰ Brattle, Thomas. 2017. “Letter on the Salem Witchcraft Proceedings.” *Letter on the Salem Witchcraft Proceedings*, August 169. <https://search-ebscohost-com.ezproxy.snhu.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=21212775&site=eds-live&scope=site>.

²¹ Little, Becky. 2018. “How Medieval Churches Used Witch Hunts to Gain More Followers.” HISTORY. January 10, 2018. <https://www.history.com/news/how-medieval-churches-used-witch-hunts-to-gain-more-followers>.

²² Bentley, Jerry, Herbert Ziegler, and Heather Streets Salter. 2020. *ISE Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*. 7th ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw-Hill Education.

²³ National Geographic Society. 2020. “Motivations for Colonization.” National Geographic Society. May 19, 2020. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/motivations-colonization/>.

have permanent settlements began. These nations fought with one another over the control over the riches of the New World, driven by fame and fortune, the want to convert Native Americans to Christianity, economic promise, and new trade routes.²⁴

Impact on Neighboring Areas

Certain major players seeking new riches and lands did not entirely end up where they thought. After many explorations of the New World, Portugal did not end up with as much in the New World as thought. England established the firmest hold in North America; they were motivated by riches and the Northwest Passage, leading them to create new colonies throughout the New England area.²⁵ The age of exploration impacted the New World; colonization disrupted ecosystems by bringing in new organisms and by eliminating others. The Europeans also brought many diseases, which lowered the Native American population.²⁶

Historical Perspective

Modern Events

The domination of England and its effects on the Americas gave us the America that we know. England was a significant player during exploration and globalization, which led them to colonize the Americas. By colonizing the Americas in past centuries, we have the Americas that we live in today. Unfortunately, because of the slavery movement, we still see the effects to this day in America. According to a Pew Research Center survey, 63 percent believe that slavery

²⁴ National Geographic Society. 2020. "Motivations for Colonization." National Geographic Society. May 19, 2020. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/motivations-colonization/>.

²⁵ National Geographic Society. 2020. "Motivations for Colonization." National Geographic Society. May 19, 2020. <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/article/motivations-colonization/>.

²⁶ "How Did Exploration Impact the World." 2021. Lisbdnet.Com. December 5, 2021. <https://lisbdnet.com/how-did-exploration-impact-the-world/>.

affects the position of black people in American society today, and 45 percent think that the country has not done enough to give black people equal rights with whites.²⁷

Conclusion

By learning about England and Europe's effects on the Americas, we can understand how today's world came to be what the Americas are now. Many factors contributed to globalization and colonization in the New World, including new ways to trade and the need to convert Natives to the religion of the Europeans. Without any of these events, America would not be what it is and what it had been. Globalization impacted the development of states from 1500 to the present due to new trade routes formed between the old and new world, along with the need to convert native populations to Christianity. We can also understand better how Christianity became a dominant religion in the Americas today. Without globalization, we can only wonder what the world would look like today and what the dominant religion might be.

²⁷ "Most Americans Say the Legacy of Slavery Still Affects Black People in the U.S. Today." 2019. Pew Research Center. June 17, 2019. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/06/17/most-americans-say-the-legacy-of-slavery-still-affects-black-people-in-the-u-s-today/>.

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