

European Settlements in North America

Chapter 2

Section 1

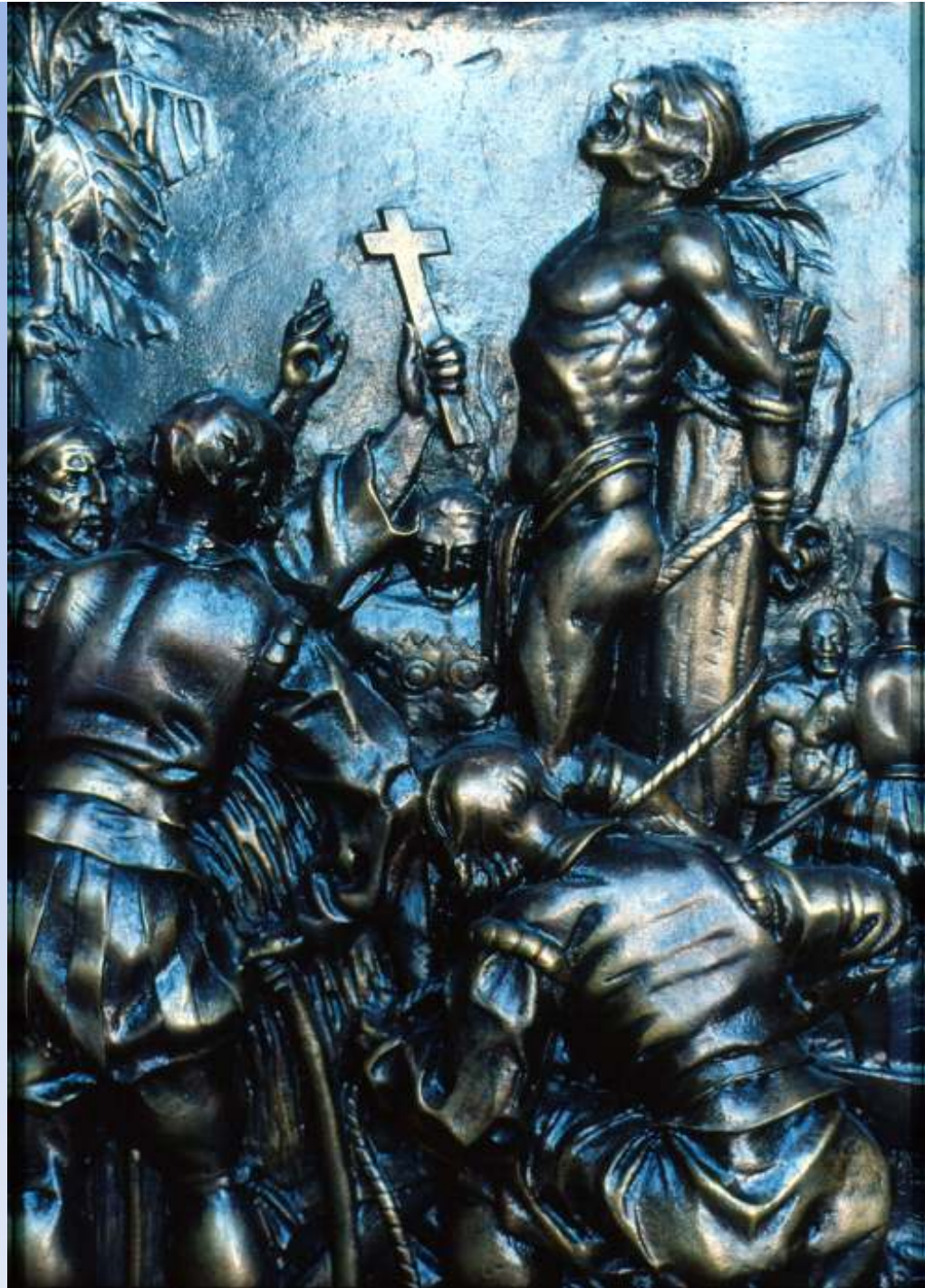
European Settlements in North America

The Main Idea

In the 1500s and 1600s, European nations, led by Spain, continued to explore, claim territory, and build settlements in America.

Reading Focus

- Which Spanish conquistadors explored North America, and what were they seeking?
- How did Spain build an empire?
- What other nations explored North America?



STORY OF CACIQUE HATUEY, CUBA'S FIRST NATIONAL HERO

In the 16th century, Hatuey was a powerful Taino Cacique or chieftain, who has since been considered by many as Cuba's first national hero although he was originally from the island of Quisqueya (Dominican Republic).

As a witness to the atrocities by the Spanish Conquistadors against his people and other Taino communities throughout the island, Cacique Hatuey and his remaining followers fled to Cuba to escape persecution and a death sentence imposed on them by the Spanish Crown. After some success assisting in the Taino resistance in Cuba, Cacique Hatuey was finally captured and sentenced to death. His execution sentence: being burnt alive at the stake.

A Spanish friar who was present on the day of Cacique Hatuey's execution attempted to convert him to Christianity while he was bound and Spanish soldiers with lit torches approached. The friar explained to the chief- tain about conversion, baptism and the Catholic concept of heaven and hell. He offered to baptize Cacique Hatuey, explaining that this action would cleanse him of all his sins against the Christian God.

The chieftain is said to have requested some time to think about this offer and after a few moments he gave his legendary response. Cacique Hatuey first asked the friar, "After being baptized, where does one go to after death?" To this the friar responded "To Heaven." The chieftain, continuing his inquiry questioned "And the Spanish, where do they go?" The friar replied "If they are baptized, of course they will go to heaven like all good Christians. To this the chieftain bravely responded "If the Spaniards go to heaven, then I certainly do not want to go there, so do not baptize me, I would prefer to go to hell!"

This story of Cacique Hatuey's execution was originally recorded by Father Bartolome de Las Casas and is still part of the oral tradition of the eastern provinces in Cuba. There is a continuing tradition of pilgrim- age to the site of this horrific deed, a place called Yara which is close to the city of Bayamo. This tradition speaks of the "light of Yara" that appears to visitors and the power of physical vigor associated with this belief. Not so coincidentally, a major Cuban rebellion against the Spanish, called the "Cry of Yara," began in the very same area near the city of Bayamo in 1868.

**Running Fox
Elder**

Spanish Conquistadors

- Spanish explorers of the 1500s were called **conquistadors**, Spanish for “conquerors.” They traveled to spread Christianity, find wealth, and win fame.
- Ponce de León explored Puerto Rico and became its governor.
- In 1513, he left to search for gold and a “fountain of youth.” He was the first Spanish explorer to touch mainland North America when he landed on the Florida coast.
- Hernán Cortés landed in Mexico to conquer the Aztec Empire.
 - Was successful with the help of the Aztecs’ enemies that he had gathered as his allies
- Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca traveled from the present-day Texas coast near Galveston through New Mexico and Arizona, then down the Mexican Pacific coast. His tales may have given rise to the legend of Seven Golden Cities of Cíbola, cities rich in gold.

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by Mark Parisi

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The Spanish in America



Conquistadors appeared large and frightening mounted on horseback. Horses, native to Europe, had never been seen before in the Americas.

War dogs were another terrifying Spanish weapon.

Conquistadors traveled to America in the 1500s. Bringing horses and guns from Spain, they conquered huge Native American empires.

Spanish conquistadors with their native Tlazcalan allies attacking an Aztec temple, 16th century



Spanish Conquistadors

Expeditions in search of the Seven Cities legend

- Hernando de Soto explored from Florida to the Carolinas and Tennessee. He was the first European to see the Mississippi River. Also explored Arkansas
- Francisco Vázquez conquered the Pueblo peoples. Then his group split up; one of his men was the first European to see the Grand Canyon. The others traveled to present-day Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas.
- Juan Cabrillo explored the coast of California.
- The Spanish never found gold in the American Southwest, so they turned their attention to mining in Mexico.
- Pedro Menendez de Avilés founded St. Augustine in Florida. Today it is the oldest city in the United States.



- **Spanish conquistadors torturing American indians, 1539-1542.**
- Spanish conquistadors torturing American indians, 1539-1542. Ferdinand de Soto (c1496-1542), Spanish explorer and conquistador and his men torturing natives of Florida in his determination to find gold. From the John Judkyn Memorial Collection, Freshford Manor, Bath.
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Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine

Spain Builds an Empire

- The government of Spain established colonial governments while conquistadors were exploring North America.
- Spain set up viceroyalties, provinces that were ruled by a representative of the monarch.
- New Spain was a viceroyalty and included much of the American Southwest and present-day Mexico, Florida, Central America, part of Venezuela, and some Caribbean islands.

Spain Builds an Empire

Social Structure

- *Peninsulares*: people who came from Spain. Considered themselves superior to the *creoles*
- Creoles: people born in the Americas of pure Spanish descent
- Mestizos: mixed Spanish and Native American descent
- Lowest on social scale were people of mixed Spanish and African descent, pure-blooded Indians, and Africans
- Catholic missionaries ran missions and taught Native Americans Christianity, European farming, herding, and crafts.

Land and Labor

- Spain tried to use Native Americans as laborers, *encomienda* system
- Many laborers were worked to death on huge estates called *haciendas*.
- As Native American population declined from disease and ill treatment, landowners came to depend on African slaves for labor.





Ruins of a Spanish Mission



Spain Builds an Empire

The Pueblo Revolt

- Juan de Oñate was sent to settle New Mexico in 1598.
- Missionaries wanted all native religions replaced by Christianity.
- In 1680 the Pueblo Indians, led by a shaman named Popé, revolted in Santa Fe to take back their ways of life.
- Many villagers joined the revolt.
- After a 10-day siege, the Spanish settlers fled.
- Popé tried to restore their traditional ways and wipe out all traces of Spanish culture.
- In 1692 Spanish soldiers retook Santa Fe.



Other Nations Explore

- In 1497 King Henry VII of England sent John Cabot, an Italian navigator, on an exploration voyage.
- Cabot landed in Newfoundland and claimed it for England. He thought he was in Asia.
- Sebastian Cabot, John's son, launched a voyage looking for a Northwest Passage to the Pacific Ocean, creating a shorter sea route to Asia.

Other Nations Explore

England's Navy

- Queen Elizabeth I built England into a sea power.
- Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe while plundering Spanish ships and towns on the Pacific coast of South America.
- Spanish Armada sent to invade England was defeated by superior English navy

New France

- 1524 Giovanni da Verrazano explored for France along coast from present-day Carolinas to Maine.
- Jacques Cartier discovered St. Lawrence River.
- Samuel de Champlain founded France's first permanent settlement in New World.
- Sieur de la Salle claimed land from Great Lakes to mouth of Mississippi.

New Netherland

- In 1609 the Dutch sent Henry Hudson to search for a Northwest Passage. He found what is now called the Hudson River.
- The Dutch claimed territory along the Atlantic coast.
- The colony of New Netherland drew settlers from all over northern Europe.



Spanish Armada



Elizabeth I



Queen Elizabeth I of England



King Phillip II of Spain

