THE AMERICAS IN THE EARLY COLONIAL PERIOD!
ECONOMIC CHANGES... SPAIN FIRST

- Travel from Europe was motivated by profit and slaves
- Spain established the *encomienda* system, this is a LABOR SYSTEM! A coercive labor system compelling indigenous people to work for them in exchange for food and shelter, very brutal but in some ways similar to the Manor system
- Discovery of silver in Peru and Mexico really upped how much Spain cared about South America by adopting mercantilism, and establishing colonies.
- Spain traded lots of silver with China, using Manila as their main port across the Pacific Ocean sailing on *Galleons*
THEN THERE WAS PORTUGAL IN BRAZIL

- All about sugarcane cultivation, so they needed lots of workers... from Africa

- This led to the *Transatlantic Slave Trade*

- Because of horrible working conditions, 5-10% of the labor force died per year and they needed replenishing.
THE CHURCH DREW A LINE ON THE MAP

- Spain and Portugal were battling over who would get more land, and the church stepped in to prevent war.
- First created by Pope Alexander VI called the Line of Demarcation in 1493.
- Then later on, the line was moved at the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494.
COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION

- Spanish appointed viceroyos to act as administrators and reps of the Spanish Crown
- Established audiencias, or royal courts so Spanish settlers could appeal the viceroyos’ decisions
- Also people born in America of Spanish descent were called creoles, who enjoyed political dominance in New Spain
RELIGION IN LATIN AMERICA

- Catholic missionaries converted most of Latin America to Catholicism

- Also, a cult developed around the Virgin of Guadalupe, who was revered for her ability to perform miracles

- Vodun, a descendant of West African animist traditions is practiced in Haiti and other Caribbean areas, at times can also be called voodoo
FRENCH COLONIES

- Sponsored expeditions to discover the Northwest Passage
- Hoped to find gold, but found a land rich in furs and natural resources. Established a trading post named Quebec
- Followed the Mississippi river from the great lakes all the way to the coast to claim it for France
- They didn’t demand land, but insisted on trade so the population of the French colony was only around 70,000, which kept good relations with the native populations

In the mid-1700s, France controlled much more of North America than England.
ENGLISH COLONIES

• 1497, John Cabot was the first Englishman to claim the lands of Newfoundland to the Chesapeake Bay for England

• First colony was Virginia and built a settlement called Jamestown

• The London Company, an joint-stock company owned Jamestown, but was not profitable at first, so as people died in the colony, the company offered free voyage to settle there

• Began to grow and sell tobacco in 1630 on plantations

• Instituted *indentured servitude*, another LABOR SYSTEM, contracted to work for a number of years in exchange for passage to America, more common in the north
• 1609 Sent Henry Hudson who tried to find the Northwest Passage, but laid claim to the island of Manhattan, where they set up New Amsterdam, which became an important node in their transatlantic trade network.

• The English military eventually forced them to turn it over to the English in 1664.