Chapter 7
Empires and Imperial Rivalries: The Americas, 1492–1763

People

Samuel de Champlain: French explorer who founded the colony at Quebec.

Jeanne Mance: nun of New France in the Ursuline order who worked to convert Montreal-area Aboriginals.

Charles II: King of England giving charter to the Hudson Bay Company to compete in the fur trade.

Mary Rowlandson: Captive of Aboriginals, wrote first captivity story to be published as a book.

Mary Jemison: an English girl captured by the Seneca at 15, and remained with them for life.

Anne Hutchinson: mid-wife who led movement of dissenters in Massachusetts colony; exiled.

“King” Philip: leader of the Wanpanoag people, warred against colonists and was executed.

Edwin Forrest: the famous nineteenth-century actor who performed a play about cruelty to natives, which inspired many others.

Benjamin West: English artist who painted contemporary events, e.g., Battle of Quebec.

Piet Heyn: a Dutch privateer who captured an entire Spanish treasure fleet in 1628.

Terms

encomenderos: conquering Spanish lords collecting tribute from people.

Paz Espanola: Spanish Peace; a sense of justice and stability in the Americas due to the right of Indigenous peoples to appear in court.

castes: racial categories arranged in hierarchy; an individual’s status was based on their caste.

habitant: a subsistence farmer renting land in the colony of New France.

seigneurial system: New France system of landholding in which landowner rented land out to farmers in return for rent and labour, too.

voyageurs: French settlers who travelled west making trips for fur trade with the Aboriginals.

Metamora: popular re-creation of a story of injustice to Aboriginals.

mercantilism: the economic system regulating trade so that colonies provide benefit to the parent state.

Joint-stock: a method of raising capital for a company by selling shares to many investors, as co-owners.

privateers: sailors who acted as pirates and outlaws and stole loot from the Spanish; viewed as heroes at home.
1. In Aztec and Incan Empires:
   - Replacement of rulers was relatively uneventful.
   - There was little change to most indigenous society.
   - In Chiefdom and tribal Areas:
     - Chiefs were mistakenly seen as kings, and Europeans demanded goods for tribute and not redistribution.
     - Traditional arrangement of society was undermined and chiefs lost their authority.

2. **Previously dominant view**
   - Estimates should be based on “ethnographic present.”
   - The recent past is the best guide to use.
   - Did not accept the high numbers reported at contact.
   - Discounted impact of diseases.
   - Estimated population of indigenous people: 900,000.
   - **Recent challenging view**
     - Emphasizes the drastic number of deaths by disease, etc. (75 percent killed)
     - Pre-contact population of indigenous people estimated at: 18 million.

3. Within empires, life went on as in the past, but Spaniards were serious about converting people to Christianity.
   - Outside empires, Jesuits and Franciscans began villages, with church at the centre.
   - They worked to establish a system of agriculture, work habits, sexual ethics, and protection from the exploitation of other Spaniards.

4. Outside the old Empires, Spanish authority was less.
   - But only the Pueblo people (modern New Mexico) succeeded in driving Spaniards out.
   - They were angry with missionaries they felt were destroying their culture. They were also upset about famine, harsh treatment, raids.
   - Spanish kept away 12 years, and when they returned they treated the Peublo with much more respect, gave them guns and taught them how to ride horses.

5. Racial identity primarily based on colour and the race(s) of one’s parents.
   - Also identity was based on legal status, economic position, social standing.
   - Wealth could make a family “Spanish.” Therefore, money allowed movement up the social scale.

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6. **Before 1663:**
- Controlled by Compagnie des Cent-Associés, a chartered private company.
- Consisted of about 1000 colonists, so not considered very successful.
- Threatened by Iroquois.

**After 1663:**
- The crown took over the colony to run it directly.
- It became quite successful, growing to over 70 000 in a century (due to high birth rate).
- Safer for colonizing after Iroquois were defeated.

7. 
- Most cities built along coast. The largest were Philadelphia, New York, and Boston.
- Ports had an important role, connected the colony to the Empire.
- Society was made up of élites as well as working people: (sailors, indentured servants, some slaves, and mostly skilled artisans.)
- There existed some opportunities for women, but mainly their lives revolved around marriage and childbirth.

8. **English colonies:**
- Married women not seen as separate legal entities; they were “covered” by husbands.
- Unable to make contracts or control property.

**Spanish colonies:**
- Patriarchal, subordinate status for women.
- But women kept their identity, retained surnames, kept control of property, chose their own heirs, could appear in court, and could even sue their husbands.

9. Ecological imperialism means:
- dominance of the environment
- transforming the landscape
- changing its processes.

Examples:
- New plants and animals dominated temperate places.
- Cattle were introduced in the Caribbean and then spread citrus plants.
- Sheep were introduced and changed local vegetation.
- Land used for grazing became arid.
- Plains nations built culture around the horse.
10.
- **Commercial Capitalism (mercantilism)**
  
  **States:**
  - organized the economy and regulated trade.
  - required colonies to trade only with the home country.
  - encouraged manufacturing and exporting.
  - discouraged consumption and importing.
  - started new industries and protected local markets.
  - founded national banks to regulate money supply, debt.
  
- **Goal: economic self-sufficiency of the state.**
  - to become less dependent on imports, able to use surplus wealth for national needs, including war.