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The European commercial system and its written sources 1500-1800

Jan Willem Veluwenkamp
ForSEAdiscovery, Groningen, 6-7-8 May 2015

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The European commodity market: the benefit of absolute advantage

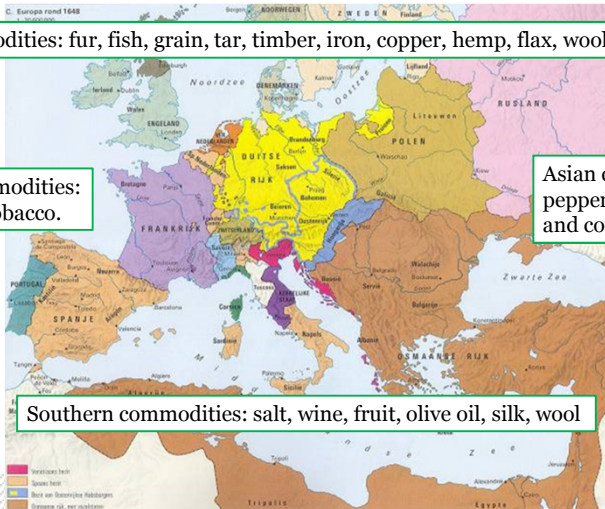
C. Europa rond 1648

Northern commodities: fur, fish, grain, tar, timber, iron, copper, hemp, flax, woollen cloth, linnen

American commodities:
Silver, sugar, tobacco.

Asian commodities:
pepper, spices, tea, silk
and cotton fabrics.

Southern commodities: salt, wine, fruit, olive oil, silk, wool



The map shows Europe divided into regions based on commodity production. Northern Europe (yellow) includes Scandinavia and the Baltic region. American commodities (purple) are shown in North America. Asian commodities (green) are shown in the East Indies. Southern commodities (orange) include the Mediterranean and the Iberian Peninsula. Major powers like France, Spain, and the Dutch Republic are also labeled.

Slide 1

- RUG1** Om de datum in te stellen:
- * >Invoegen >Datum en tijd
 - * Bij Vast: vul de datum in in formaat dd-mm-jj
 - * >Toepassen op alle dia's
- RUG; 30-8-2007

Supply and demand boosted by:

- population growth
- commercial capitalism
- mercantilism



Elmina

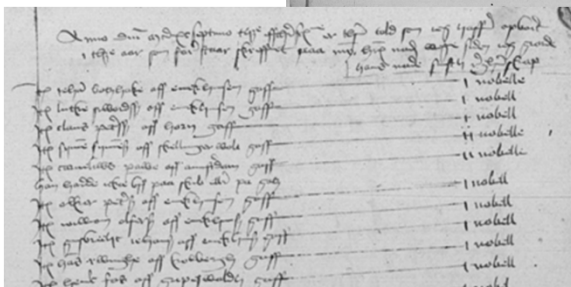
The Hanseatic world, 1500



<http://brugge.slo.nl/havovwo/opdracht/kaarten/>



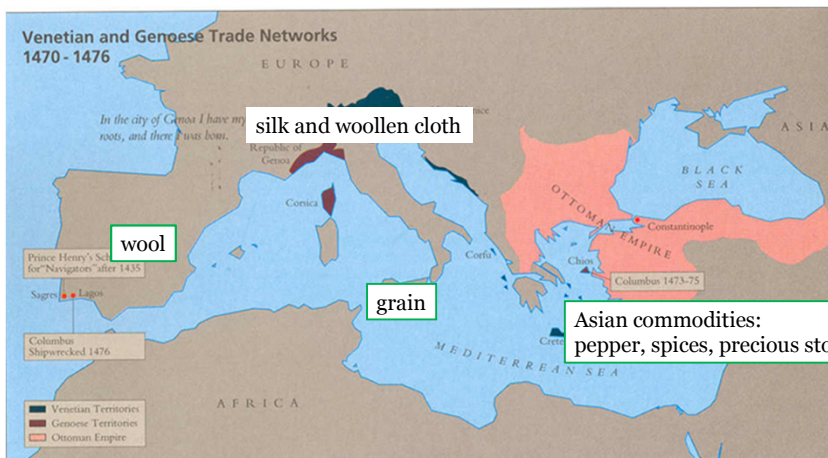
Sound Toll Registers



http://www2.soundtoll.nl/sonttolregisters-001/Sonttolregisters-001_0532.jpg



The Mediterranean world, 1500





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The Flemish and
South German
hubs, 1500



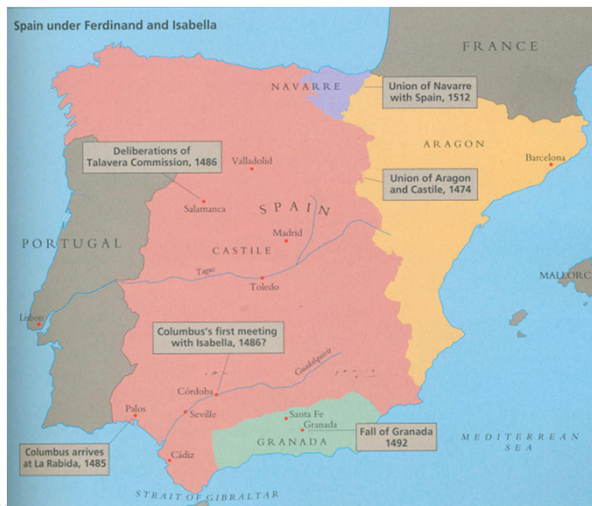
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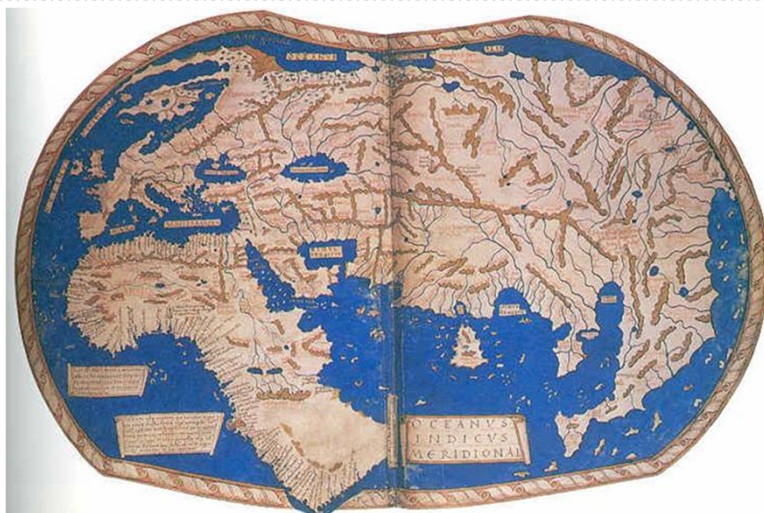
Map of the world, Genova 1457

Iberian expansion, 1500



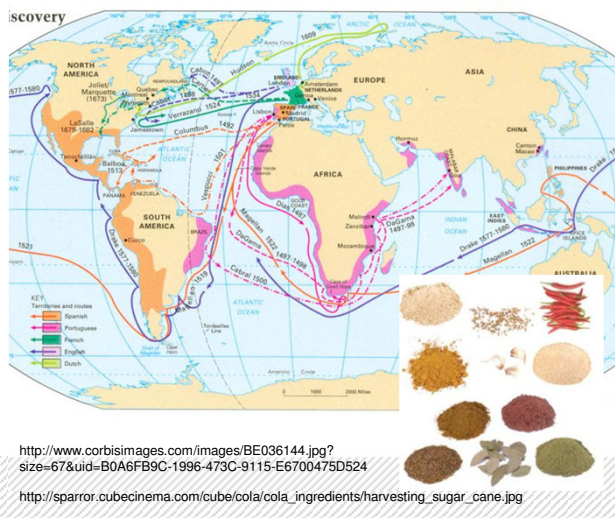
The Portuguese advance 1488: Bartolomeus Dias 1497: Vasco da Gama





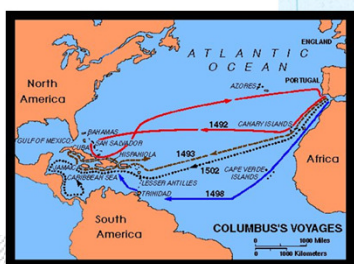
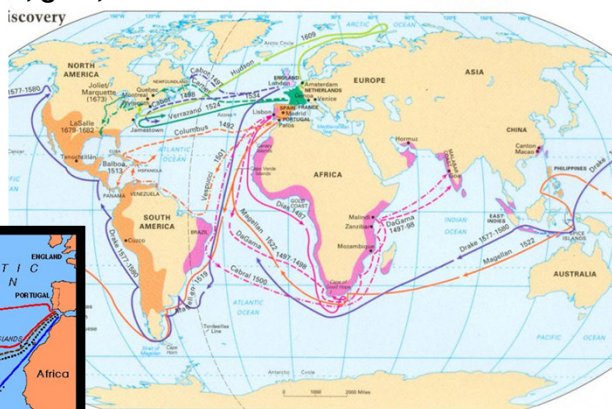
The world in 1489

The Portuguese Commercial Empire in the 16th century: business





The Spanish Expansionist Empire in the 16th century God, gold, fame



1520: Cortes: Aztecs
1530: Pizarro: Incas
1540: North-America



Hernan Cortes (1485-1527)
Bron: www.wilsonsalmanac.com

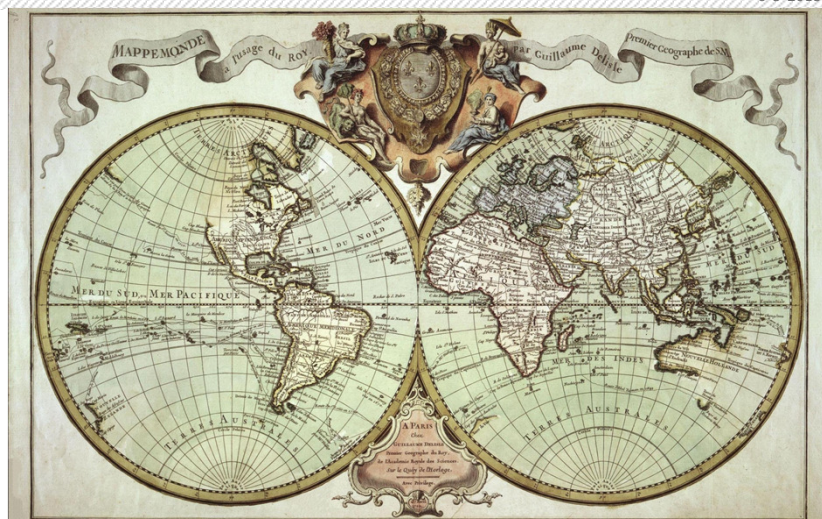
<http://faculty.umf.maine.edu/~walters/web%2020230/spanish%20america%20map.gif>



1545: silver mountain



Potosi, Andes, Bolivia



17th century world map

Source: <http://centurionsupport.info/world-map-vintage/>



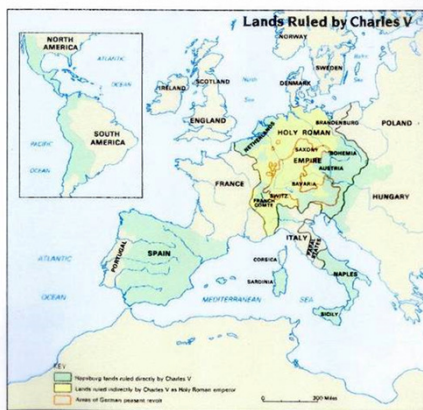
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King Charles I
of Spain
(1516-1556)

Emperor Charles V
(1519-1556)

ca. 1535



Archduke of Austria
King of Bohemia
King of Hungary
Duke of Burgundy,
King of Spain including Spanish America, Milan and Naples
Lord of the Low Countries
Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire



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The Flemish hub, 1550



The Dutch Revolt

Source: <http://historforum.digischool.nl/nederland/historie.htm>

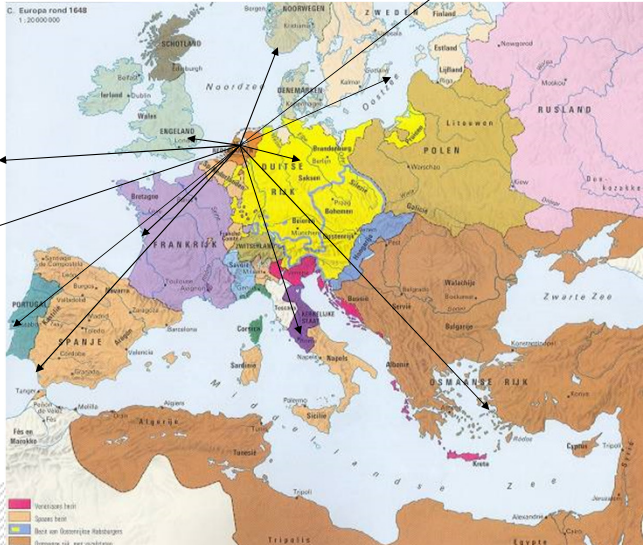
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White Sea

19

The Dutch commercial system in the 17th and 18th centuries:


- America
- Asia
- Integration of the northern and southern markets
- international intermediate trade
- Colonial empire



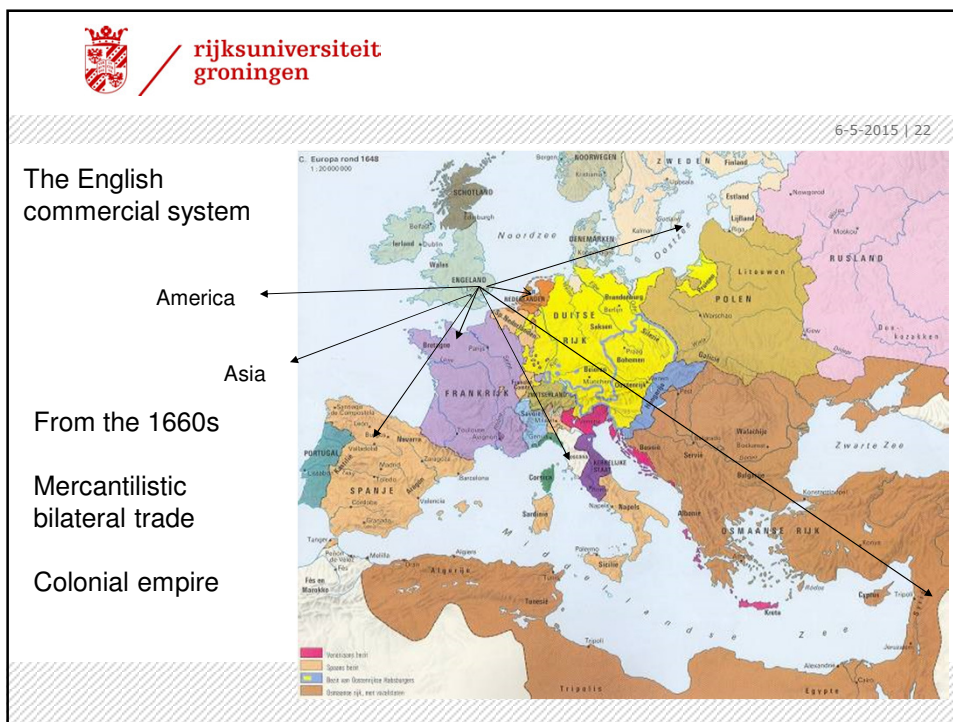
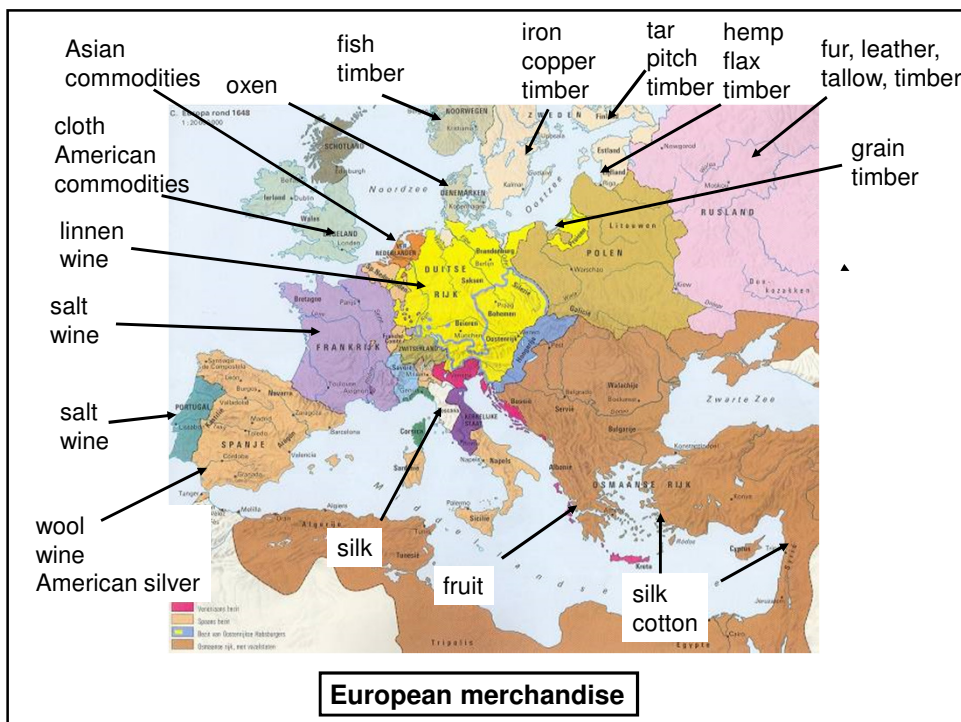
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The Dutch commercial system



http://users.clas.ufl.edu/harlandj/maps_main.html



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British exports





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The English Commercial System

Function:

- import for the home market and re-export
- export of English produce
- re-export of American and Asian commodities

Organization:

- Family businesses
- Regulated Companies
- Joint Stock Companies

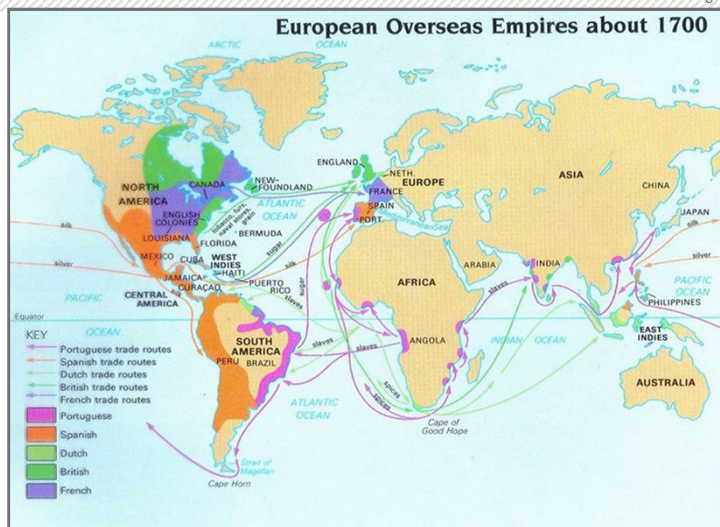
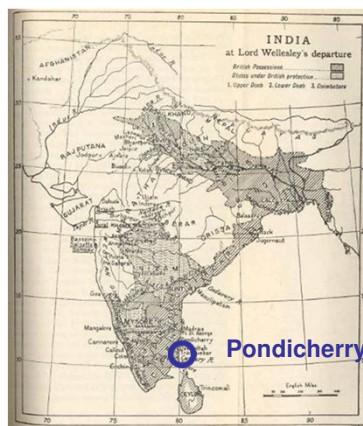
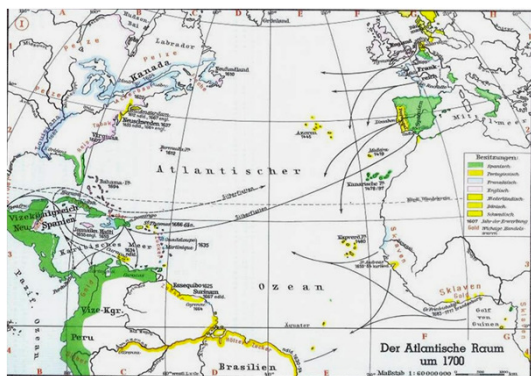
- Government policy: mercantilism



**Oliver Cromwell
(1599-1658)**

http://www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/britons/britonImages/img_536.jpg

From the 1660s: the French commercial system
 Mercantilistic bilateral trade
 Colonial empire



The Swedish
commercial system
in the 18th century

Mercantilistic
bilateral trade

Exemplary for many
states



The organization of the European
commodity market.

Competing commercial systems:

Portugal

Spain

the Dutch Republic

England/Great Britain

France

On what depended their succes?

Opposing or co-operating
political and commercial factions.



Robert Walpole 1676-1745

Source: <http://worldroots.com/brigitte/gifs20/robertwalpole.jpg>



Written sources

- Government archives:
reports, fiscal registers, jurisdiction, correspondence, treaties...
- Notarial archives:
contracts, statements, conflicts, testaments...
- Company papers:
correspondence, financial records...

SAA 5061/2840, vonnis AG 23-5-1749

Quarta & Comp. Een vaetje	
Judige ... op 180. Centen	175 →
Den Een vaetje godet gelt 140. Centen	50 →
Den 2 Pakkete Thee 500 Centen	500 →
Den 1 Pakke Thee ... 810. Centen	800 →

