

The historical and socio-cultural context of the age of discovery

English colonies:

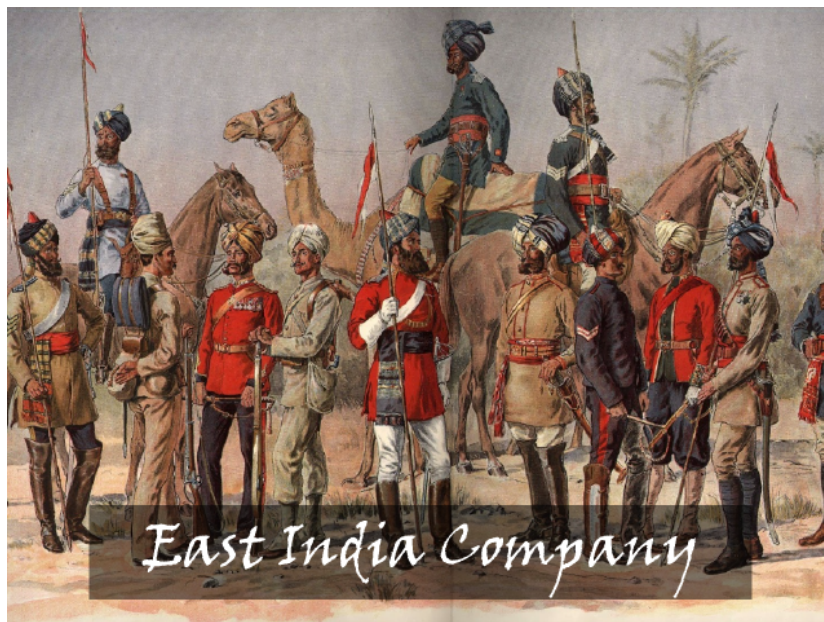
- English colonies reached from the east coast (Newfoundland) to the south (Florida) of the north American continent
- The first English colony was called “Virginia” because of Queen Elisabeth I (also known as “The Virgin Queen”)
- British farmers, soldiers as well as hired foreigners lived in the colonies
- Most colonies were founded after 1620 at the north coast
- Jamestown, named after King James I, was founded in 1607
- A lot of Puritans migrated to north America in the 1620s
- English people took over Dutch colonies in 1664



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The East India Company:

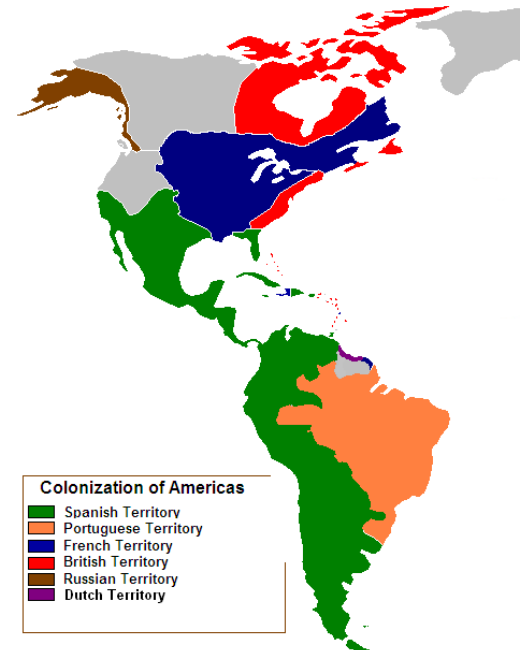
- The East India Company was a powerful commercial and political organisation founded by English merchants and politicians
- The foundation of the EIC was initiated by Queen Elizabeth I
- The EIC had the task of controlling all trade between the Cape of Good Hope and the Strait of Magellan
- They had the right to elect the 24 directors and the governor themselves
- They had the right to write their own by-laws
- Around the middle of the 17th century, the EIC received special rights and was henceforth ruled British-India



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Spanish colonialism:

- Christoph Columbus discovered north America in 1492
- The discovery of south America started in 1519
- The conquest of the Inca empire started in 1531 when two brothers fought about the succession
- The first Spanish colony was founded in New Mexico in 1598
- In the 17th century the Spanish empire was already in decline



Portuguese colonialism:

- Portugal wasn't as interested in large areas of land as in blocking and controlling the trading routes in Asia and India
- The Portuguese conquest of Brazil started in 1500



