

# The Columbian Exchange



# Columbian Exchange

- Columbus traveled back and forth from Europe to the Americas
- On these expeditions he brought goods to and from the countries
- Columbus began a vast global exchange that would effect the world
- Because this global exchange began with Columbus we call it the Columbian Exchange



# Goods were exchanged

- People
- Plants
- Animals
- Technology
- Diseases



What is the Old World  
and what is the New  
World?



# From The Old World

Europe

Wheat  
Onions  
Apples  
Carrots  
Horses  
Cattle

Africa

Radishes  
Watermelon  
Coffee

Asia

Rice  
Sugarcane  
Mangoes

\*\* How would horses impact the New World?

# From The New World

North America	Sunflowers Corn (Mexico) Avocadoes
Central America	Peppers Beans Cocoa
South America	Potatoes Tomatoes Peanuts

\*\* Why would potatoes be important in Europe?

# Impact on Population

- By the 1700s, corn, potatoes, beans and tomatoes were contributing to population growth
- People began migrating to the Americas as well
  - Why would people want to move to the Americas?



# Continued..

- European diseases (like small pox) killed Native Americans
- Shortage of labor to grow cash crops led to the use of African slaves
  - Spain needed help for their American empires
- Slavery was based on race (Superior vs Inferior)
- European plantation system in the Caribbean and the Americas destroyed indigenous economics and damaged the environment.



# The Commercial Revolution

In this lesson, students will be able to define the following terms:

The Commercial Revolution

Mercantilism

Colonies

Mother Country

Capitalism

Joint Stock Company





The Commercial Revolution marked an important step in Europe from local economies to a global economy.

# Mercantilism

- Mercantilism was the belief that a nation's power depended on the ownership of gold and silver.
- In order to acquire gold and silver, European countries established overseas colonies.
- Colonies provided gold and silver.



Mercantilists believed that a country's wealth was based on the amount of gold and silver it acquired.

# Mother Countries and Colonies

- Mother countries were conquerors.
- The conquered land was a colony.
- In addition to mining for gold and silver, Mother countries imported natural resources or raw materials from their colonies and exported finished goods.





Mother countries imported cheap raw materials like cotton and exported more expensive finished goods like shirts.

# Capitalism

- Merchants and bankers laid the foundations for capitalism.
- In a capitalist system, business owners risk their capital (money) to start new businesses hoping to make profits.
- Individuals formed joint-stock companies.



A stock certificate represents partial ownership in a business.

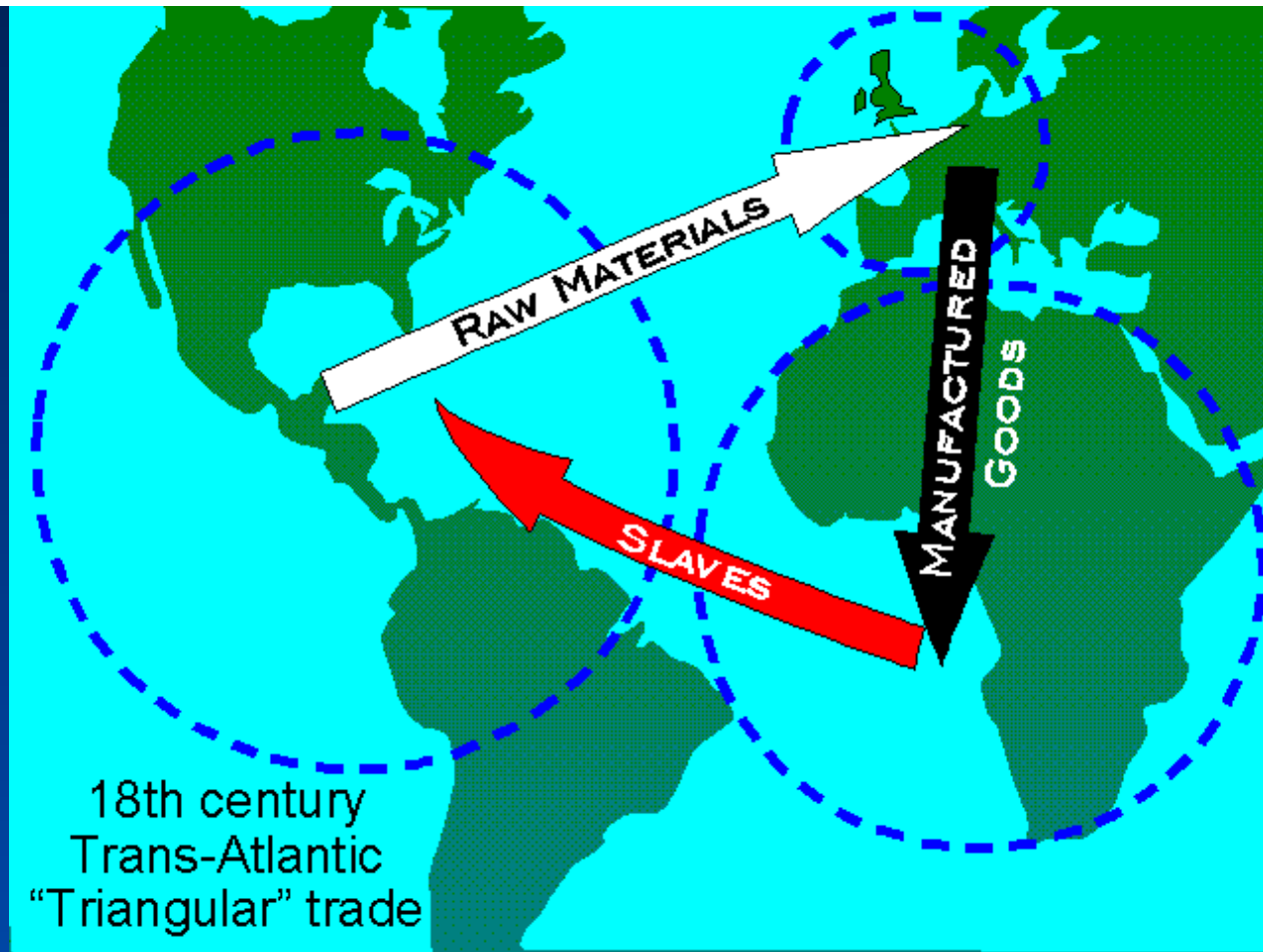
# Joint Stock Companies

- A Joint stock company is a privately owned company that sells stock or partial ownership in the company to investors.
- Investors risk their capital or money when they purchase stock.
- If the company is successful, the investor receives his share of the profits.



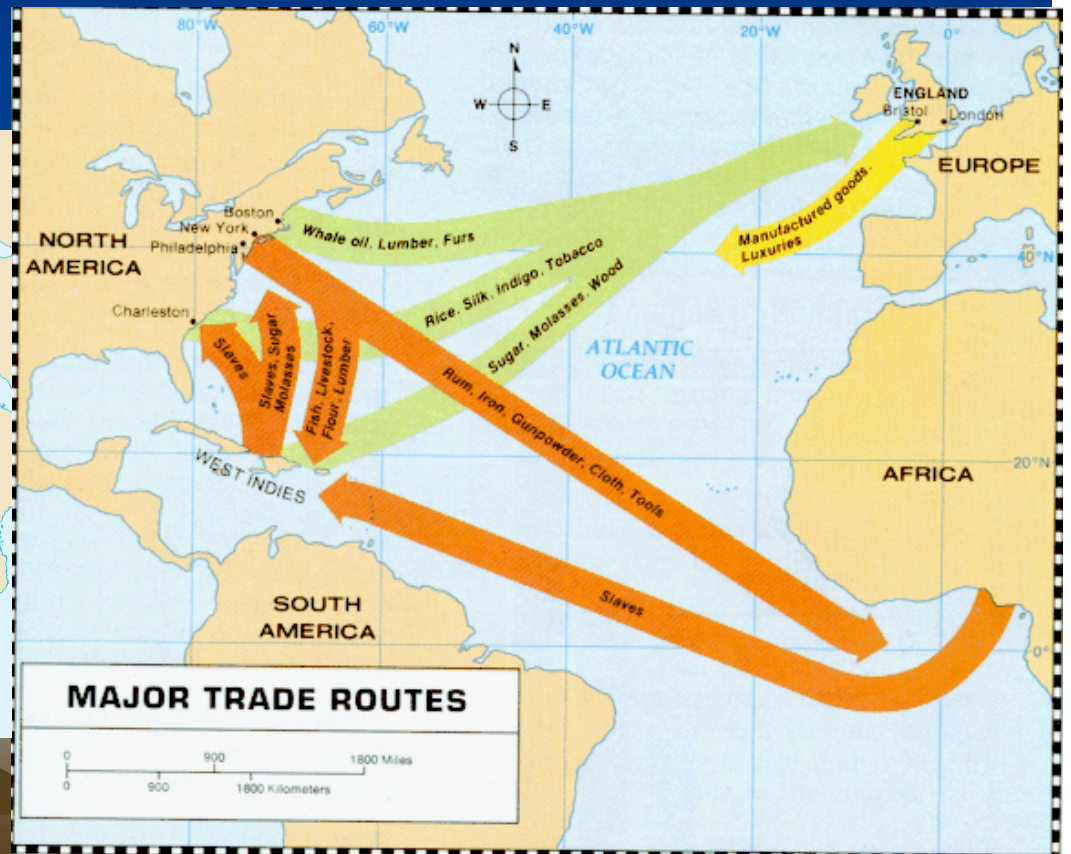
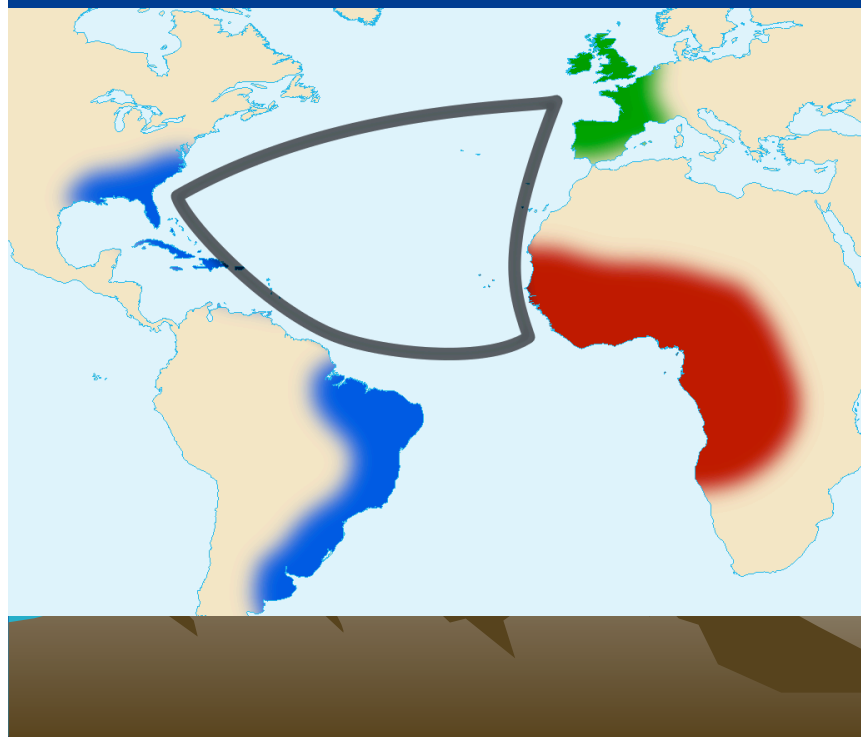


Joint stock companies were sometimes given charters to establish settlements in the “New World”.



“Triangular” trade made some continents wealthy while it impoverished other continents.

# Triangular Trade and the Atlantic Slave Trade





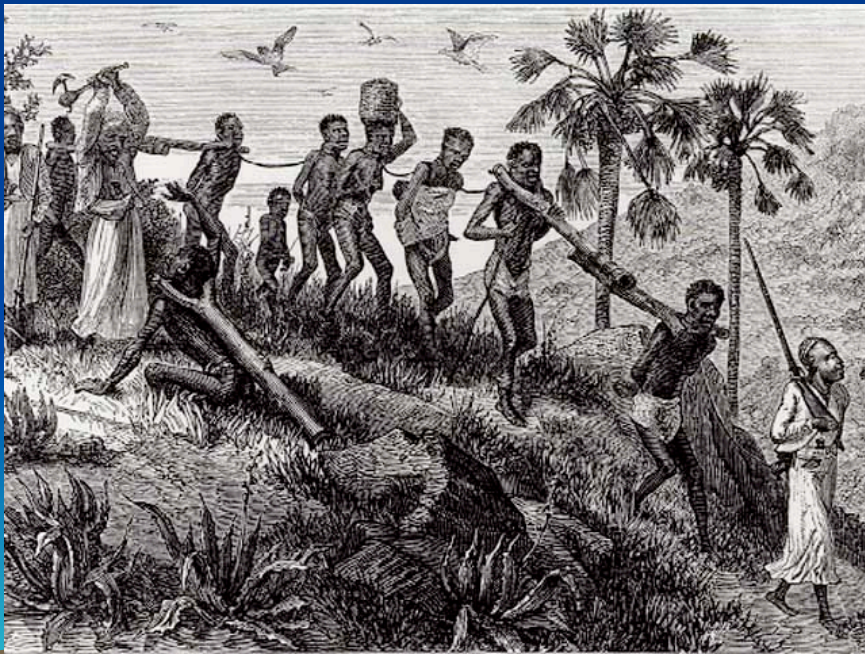
# Atlantic Slave Trade

- The Atlantic slave trade was started in the 1500s to fill the need for labor in Spain's American empire.
- Each year, traders shipped tens of thousands of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic to work on tobacco and sugar plantations in the Americas.



# Atlantic Slave Trade

- Europeans relied on African rulers and traders to seize captives in the interior and bring them to coastal trade posts and fortresses.

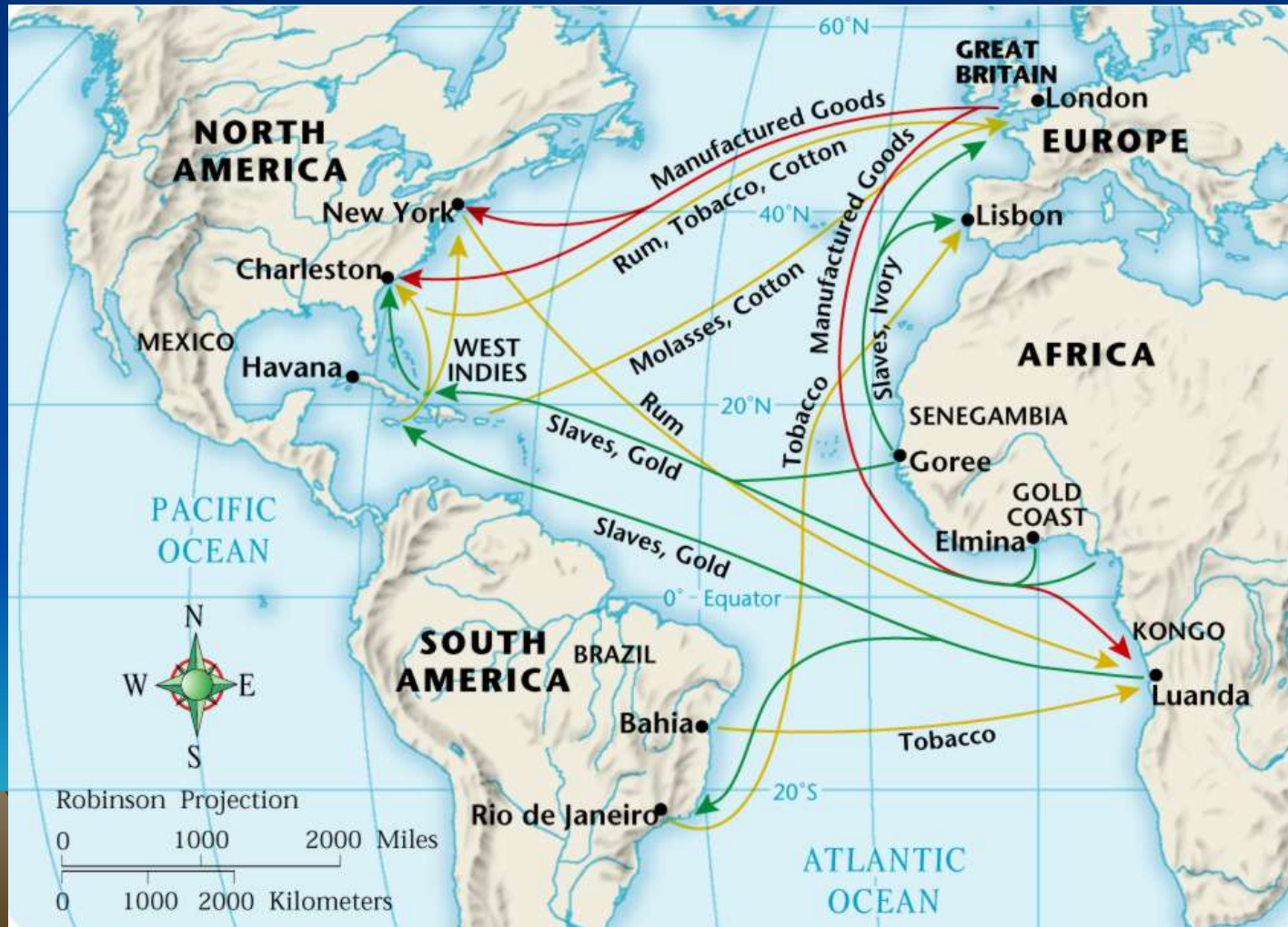


- The slave trade intensified as the demand for slaves increased in the Americas and the demand for luxury goods increased in Africa.



# Atlantic Slave Trade

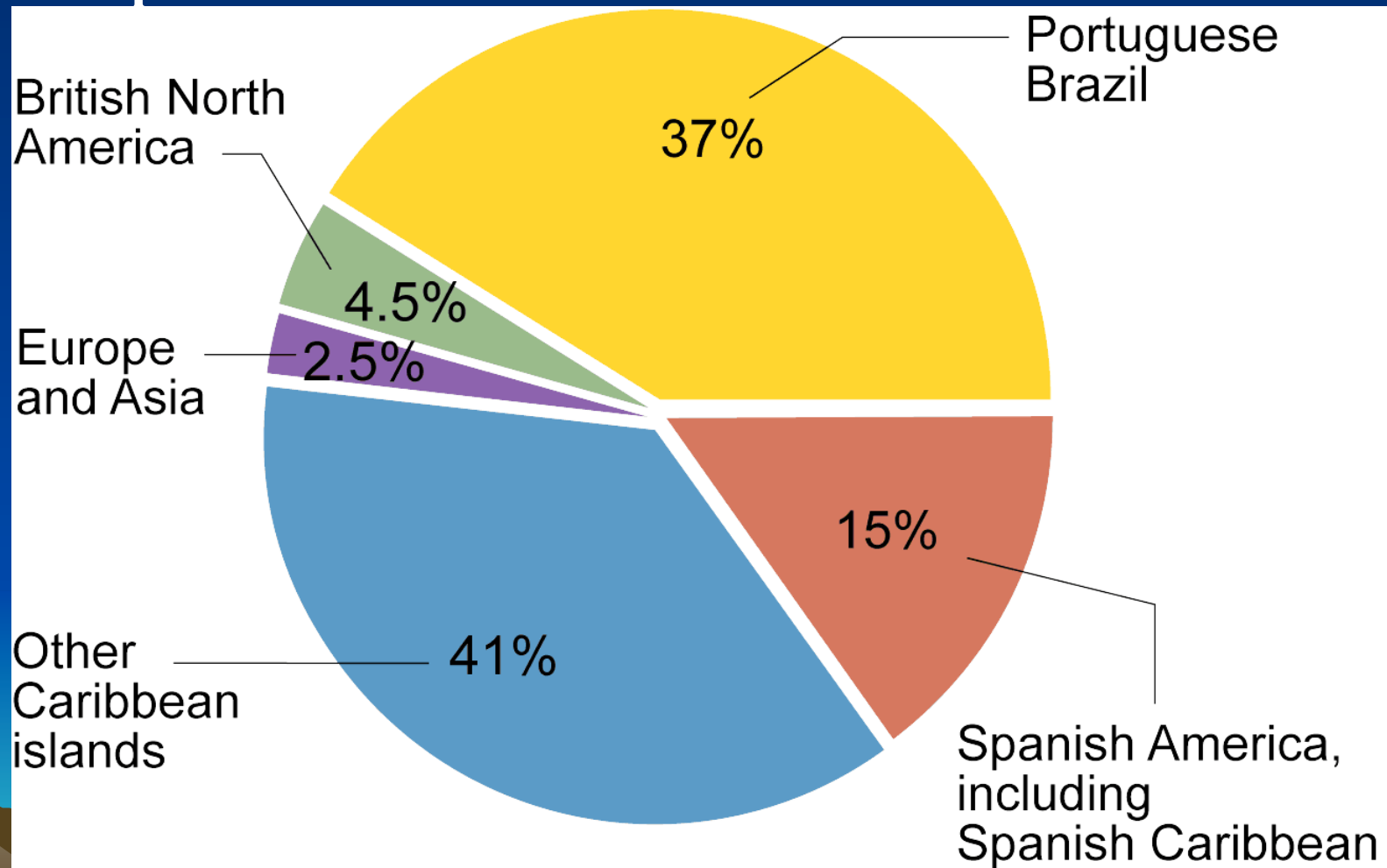
- The Atlantic slave trade formed one part of a three-legged trade network known as the **triangular trade**.



# Destinations of Enslaved Africans

**What country imported the most slaves?**

**Which imported the fewest?**

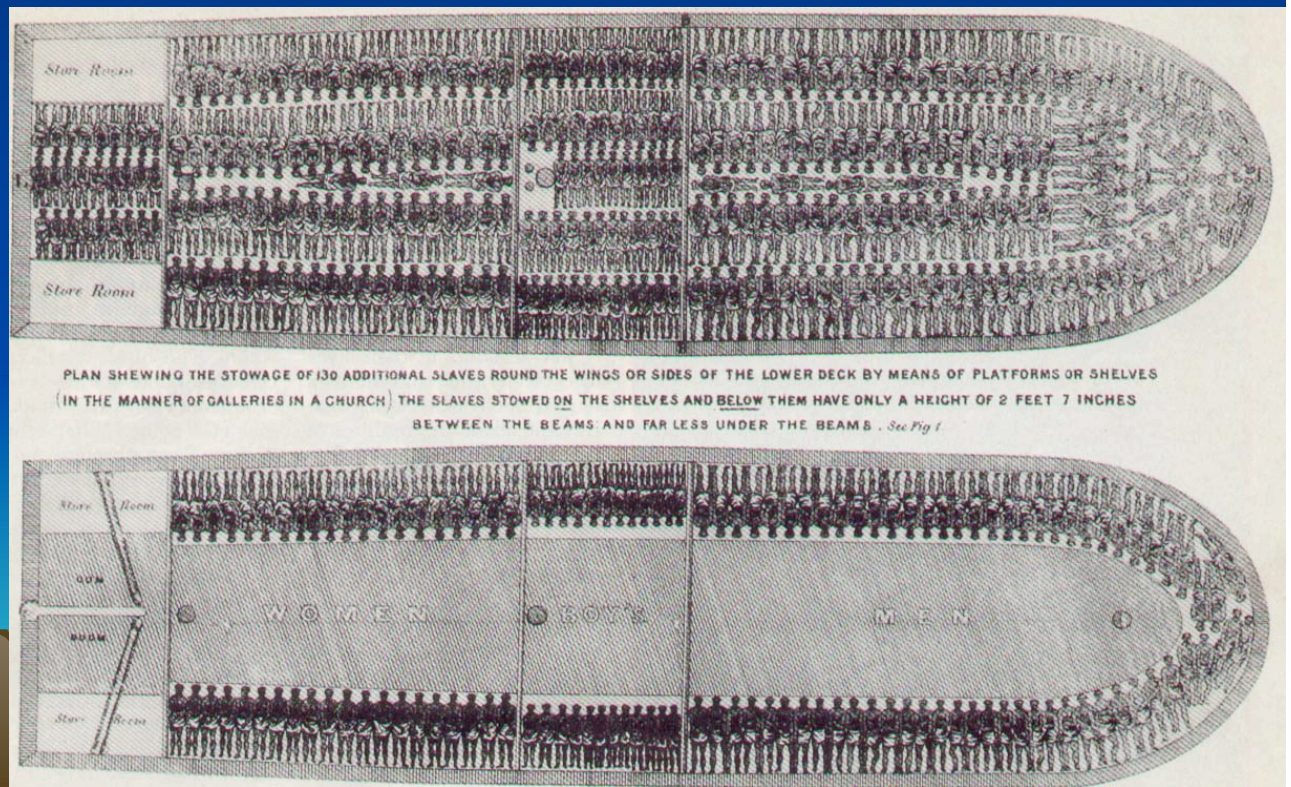


Source: Albert M. Craig, *World Civilizations*



# The Middle Passage

- Hundreds of men, women and children crammed on one vessel
- “Floating Coffins”
  - Dying from disease or brutal mistreatment
- Few of the Africans who resisted lived to see the end of their journey





# Impact of the Slave Trade

- By the 1800s, an estimated 11 million enslaved Africans had reached the Americas. Another 2 million probably died during the Middle Passage.
- The slave trade caused the decline of some African states. The loss of countless numbers of young women and men resulted in some small states disappearing forever.
- New African states arose whose way of life depended on the slave trade. The rulers of these new states waged war against other Africans in order to gain control of the slave trade in their region.

# Commercial Revolution

- Opening trade with Asia, Africa and America changed (revolutionized) Europe's economy:
  1. Inflation caused by
    - growth in population = increase in demand for goods and services
    - because goods were scarce, sellers could raise their prices
    - by mid-1500s silver and gold were everywhere and rulers were using it to make coins – thus an increased amount of money in circulation
    - combine this with scarcity of goods and prices will rise



# Growth of Capitalism

2. Expanded trade and push for overseas empires spurred the growth of capitalism
  - entrepreneurs and capitalists wanted more money
  - they made up a new business class devoted to making profits
  - this changed the local European economy into an international trading system



# Mercantilism

## 3. Basic Ideas behind mercantilism:

- Nation's wealth based on its gold and silver treasure
- Must export more goods than imported
- Colonies existed for benefit of parent country
  - Provide raw materials and resources
  - Provide a market for selling manufactured goods
  - Colonies could ONLY buy from parent country



# Summary of Commercial Revolution

- How did the Commercial Revolution change Europe's economy?
  - Prices rose (inflation)
  - A new business class (entrepreneurs) was created ....capitalism
  - The goal of European economies changes from agrarian base to CASH based (mercantilism)



# Food for Thought

- Before the Columbian Exchange, there were
  - no oranges in Florida
  - no bananas in Ecuador
  - no paprika in Hungary
  - no tomatoes in Italy
  - no pineapples in Hawaii
  - no cattle in Texas
  - no chile peppers in Thailand and India
  - no cigarettes in France
  - no chocolate in Switzerland

