

Colonizing the New World

European Justifications for New World Claims

- * Ideological/Religious Reasons—Papal grant or Christian obligation to convert the “Infidels”
- * Right of Discovery
- * Right of Military Conquest
- * Diplomatic/Legal Claims—Purchase or treaty
- * *Vacuum Domicilium*—Colonization & use of vacant land

Black Legend of Spanish Conquest

- Spain granted all territory west of the Treaty of Tordesillas line by decree of Vatican
- Independent Conquistadors with small armies:
 - Superficial responsibility for conversion of indigenous populations;
 - Motivated by promise of personal gain;
 - Searching for Gold, Silver, etc.
 - Placed themselves at the head of tribute stream;
 - Relied on the labor of Native and imported slaves;
 - By 1660 had shipped over 7 million pounds of silver back to Spain, quadrupling the supply.

Contested Control of New Spain & New Mexico

- Royal control through Council of the Indies:
 - Facilitated by Viceroys in the New World;
 - Real power in the hands of:
 - Encomenderos—the **Encomienda system** granted land and Native slaves to powerful landowners;
 - Military—**Presidio system** had functional control of the region;
 - Clergy—**Mission system** had moral, spiritual control.
- Conflict between Economic & Religious Purpose:
 - **Comprehensive Orders of New Discoveries** (1573) re-emphasize importance of conversion;
 - **Sepulveda & Las Casas** debate the nature & treatment of native populations;
 - Native resistance—**Pueblo Revolt** led by **Popé** successfully removes Spanish dominance for several years until violently put down.

Romantic Notions of French Co-Habitation

- Guided by multiple ideals:
 - Religious goal—Serious attempts to convert native population led by Jesuit missionaries, referred to as the **Black Robes** by converts;
 - Economic goal—Search for gold and silver but none found; settled into the fur trade;
 - Political goal—Attempt to recreate France in the New World:
 - Plans to send an original 3,000 colonists followed by another 15,000
 - Attempt to spread New France outward from riverways and bays to create a true nation.

Reality of New France

- Little support in France for sustained colonization:
 - Opposition among French nobility to sending the range of colonists needed
 - Little support among merchants for extending the enterprise beyond that necessary for trade
- Development of system of trading outposts, trapping territories & regular fur rendezvous:
 - Best land granted to wealthy in form of **seigneuries**
 - Grants quickly covered the banks of major rivers which angered lower & middle classes in the colonies (Especially **Engagés**, French indentured laborers), but
 - Boundaries ran perpendicular to flow of the river which disappointed the wealthy.
- Real New France in the fluid spaces beyond the outposts of the St. Lawrence & Mississippi Rivers and the Great Lakes:
 - **Coueurs de bois**, independent fur trappers & traders dominate the economics of New France
 - Precursors to the stereotypical Mountain Men
 - Traveled through trapping region for most of the year
 - Returned to organized regions to sell furs & resupply;
 - Success largely due to entry into Native American society:
 - Intermarriage with native women;
 - Offered an additional cultural, social & economic support system;
 - For many new role in Native American community replaced old community ties.