

Potatoes, Horses, and Syphilis, Oh My!  
or,  
The Columbian Exchange  
Dr. Joshua Specht

# Announcements

1. Audio problems hopefully fixed.
2. New office hours (already?): 11am-1pm on Thursdays
3. Week 4: Library workshop to prep essay prospectus (due week 6)
4. Start reading novel during the next couple weeks
5. You should be going to tutorial and emailing discussion questions
6. Advice for passing the course: (1) do not plagiarize; (2) submit all the work.





Greek/Roman world, ~150 CE



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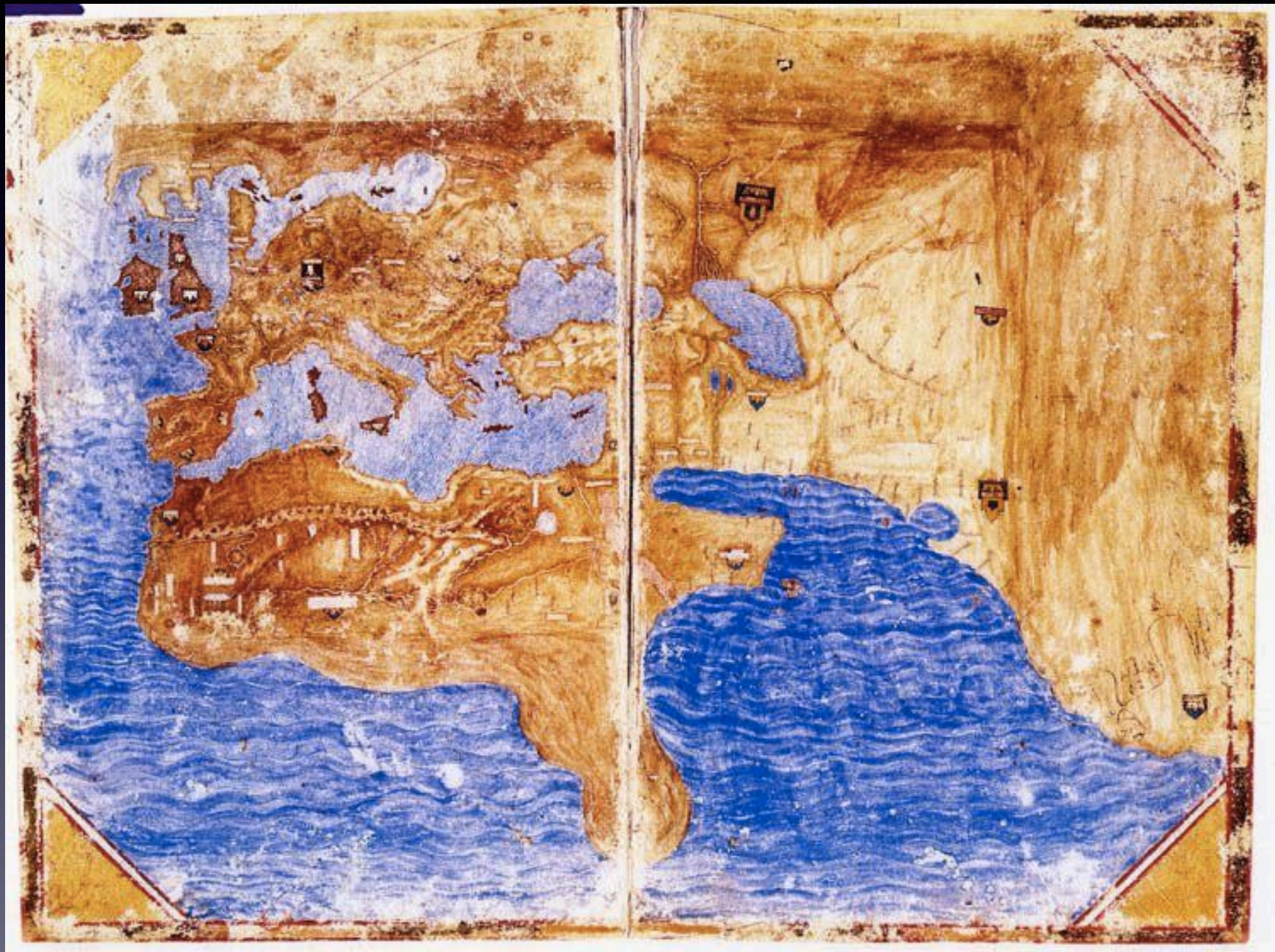


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Muslim world, ~1150 CE





European world, ~1350 CE





Chinese world, ~1389 CE





1507 CE world map



# Interdependent (mostly) global system



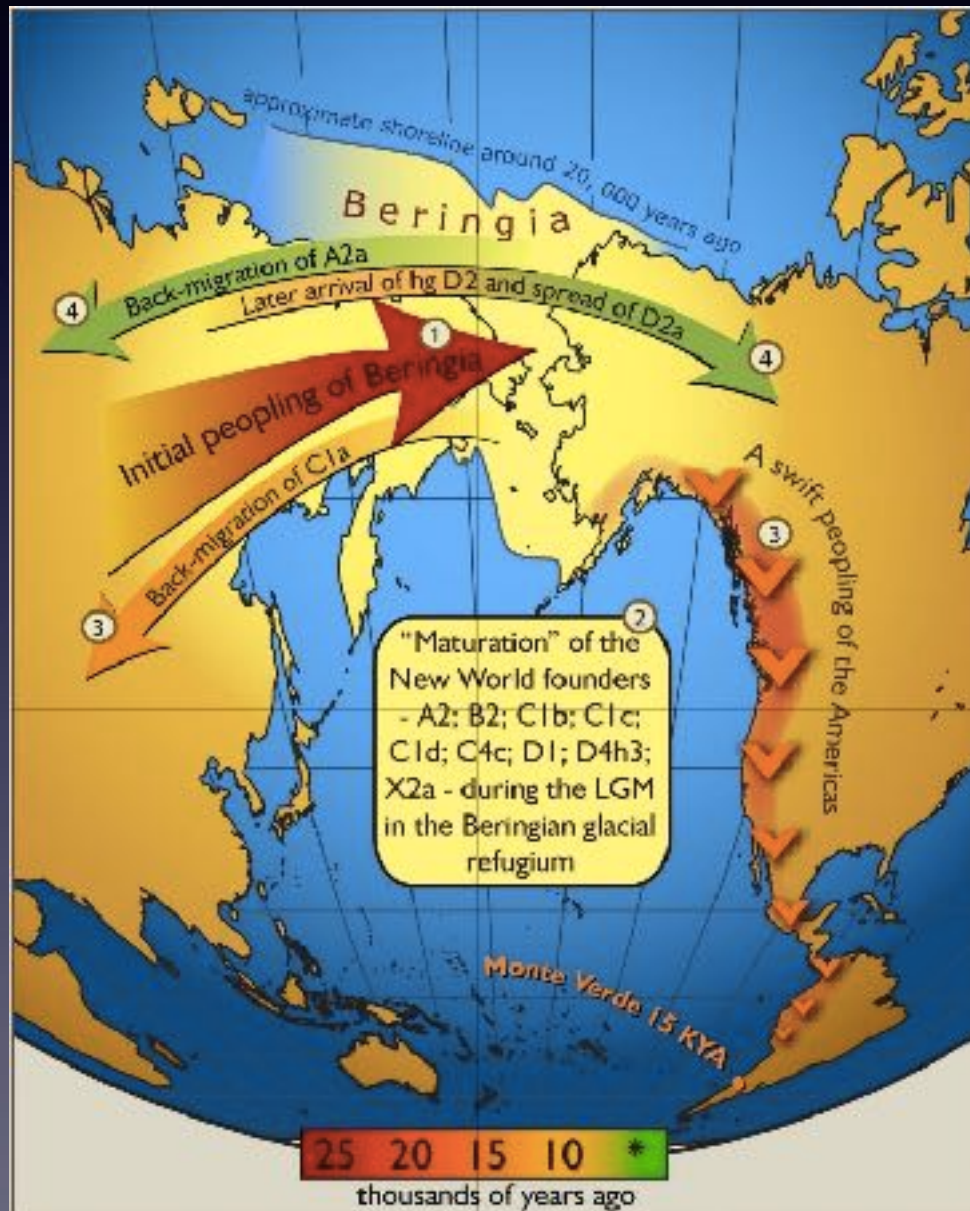
~1662 CE



# Overview

1. We will examine early interaction between European powers and American societies.
2. We will look at the political, economic, and social consequences of the Columbian Exchange: the flow of plants, animals, and microbes between hemispheres.
3. European domesticated animals helped make European conquest possible; American crops taken back to Europe helped enable European population growth; and diseases moving both ways across the Atlantic caused disease epidemics (far worse in the Americas)
4. We will end with a (brief) discussion of early British settlement in North America.

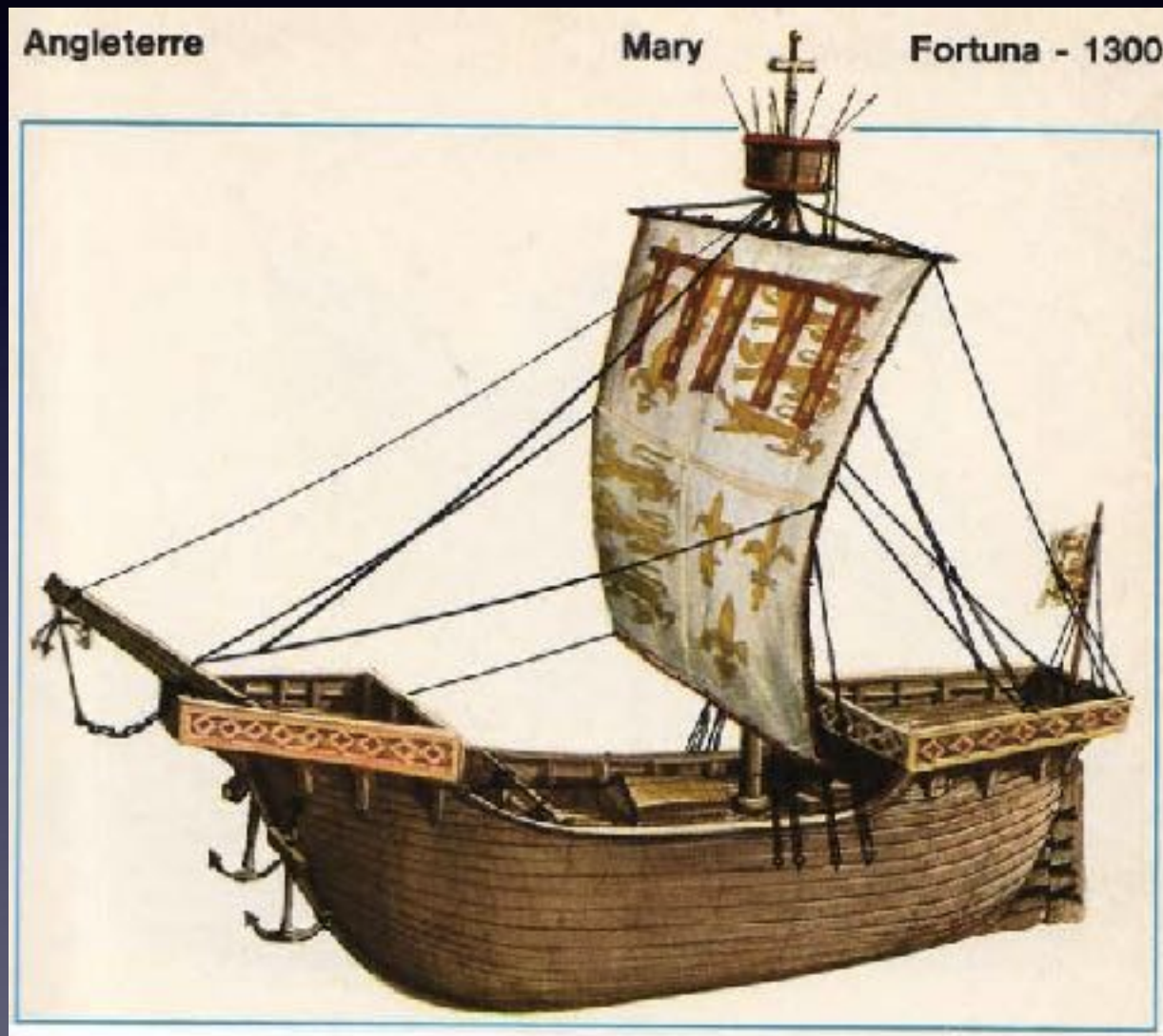
# Settlement of the Americas



credit: National Parks Service (USA)



# Early European Navigation

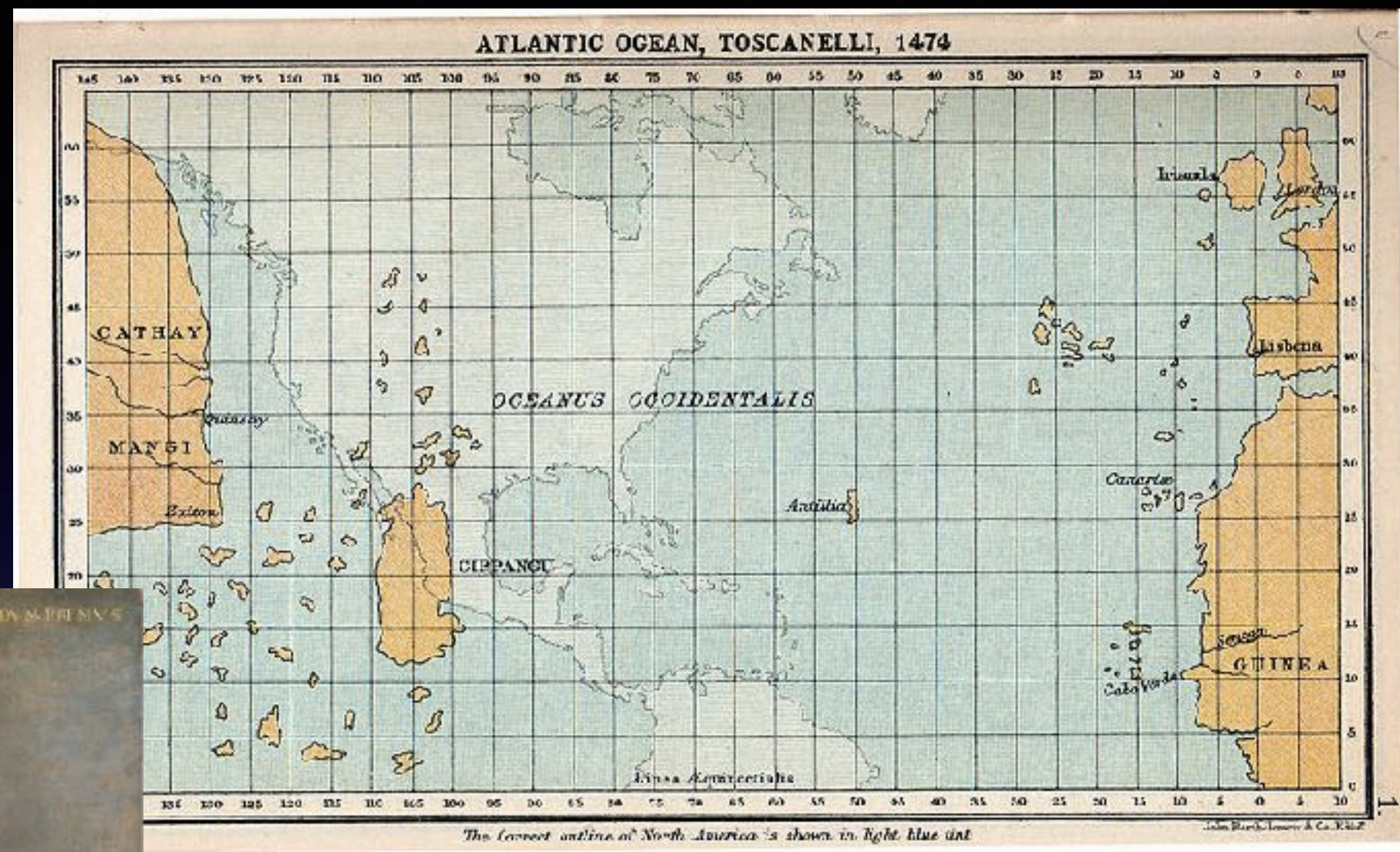


Medieval ship



Portuguese Caravel





Christopher Columbus  
(1451-1506)

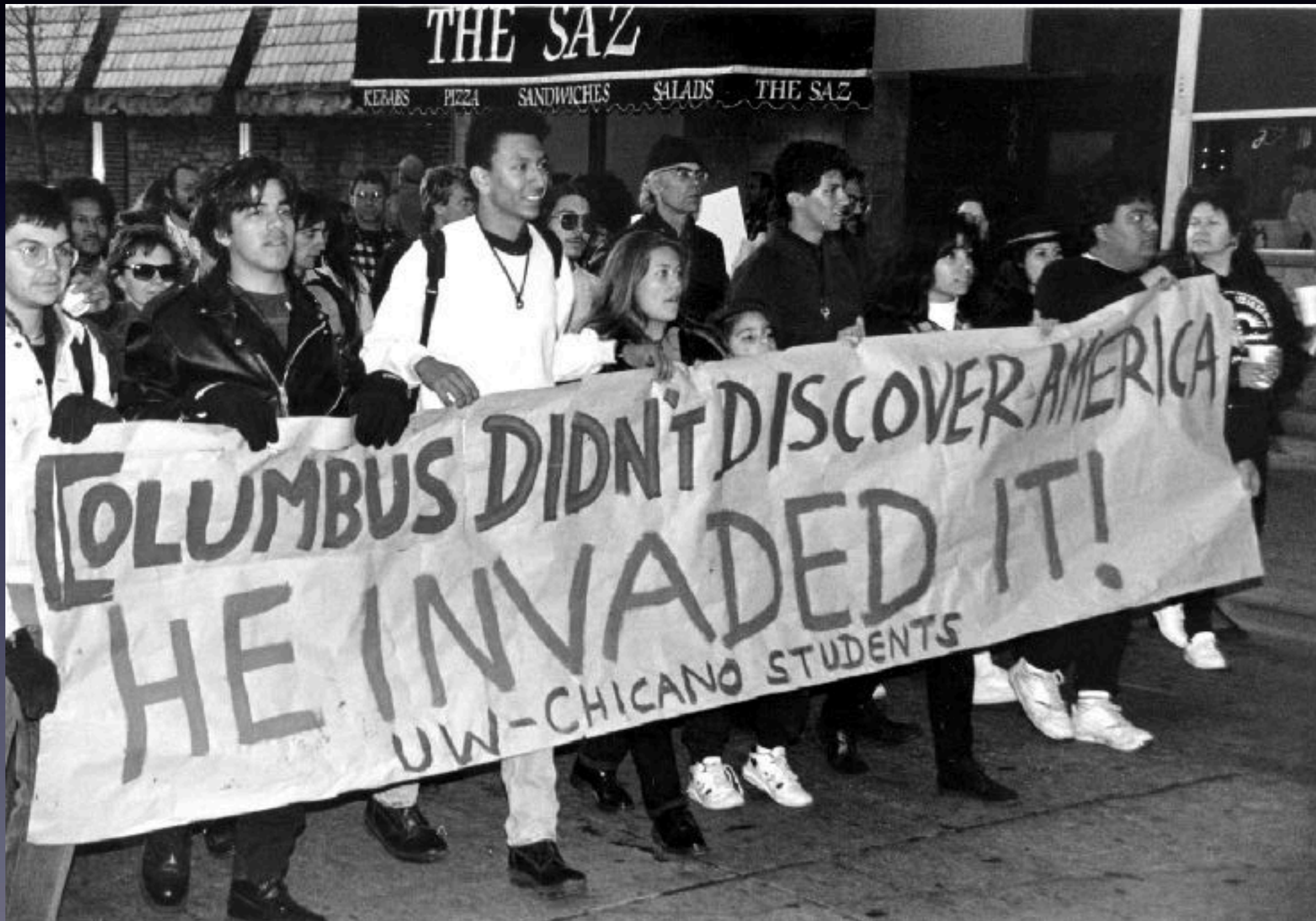




*Landing of Columbus*, John Vanderlyn, 1847



# “Columbus Day” Holiday Debate





Should a day mark Columbus'  
voyage / Columbian  
exchange?

What should it look like?



# Spanish Conquest



# Aztec Conquest (1519-1521)







Tenochtitlan, Aztec Capital (courtesy of *American Pageant*)

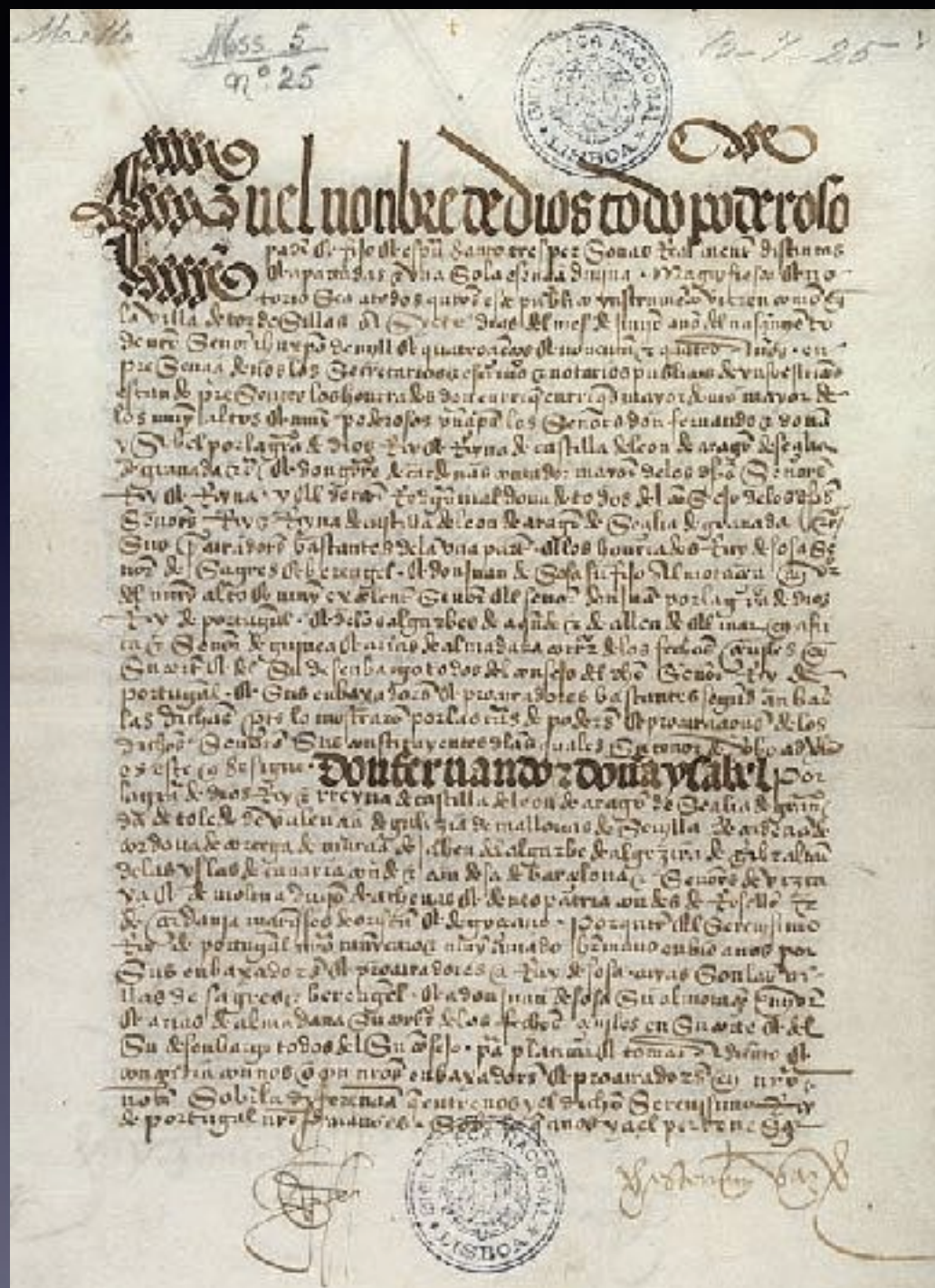


# Conquest of the Inca (~1532 CE)



works by Felipe Huaman Poma de Ayala, indigenous artist born post-conquest.





Initially, Spain  
and Portugal  
dominate  
Americas

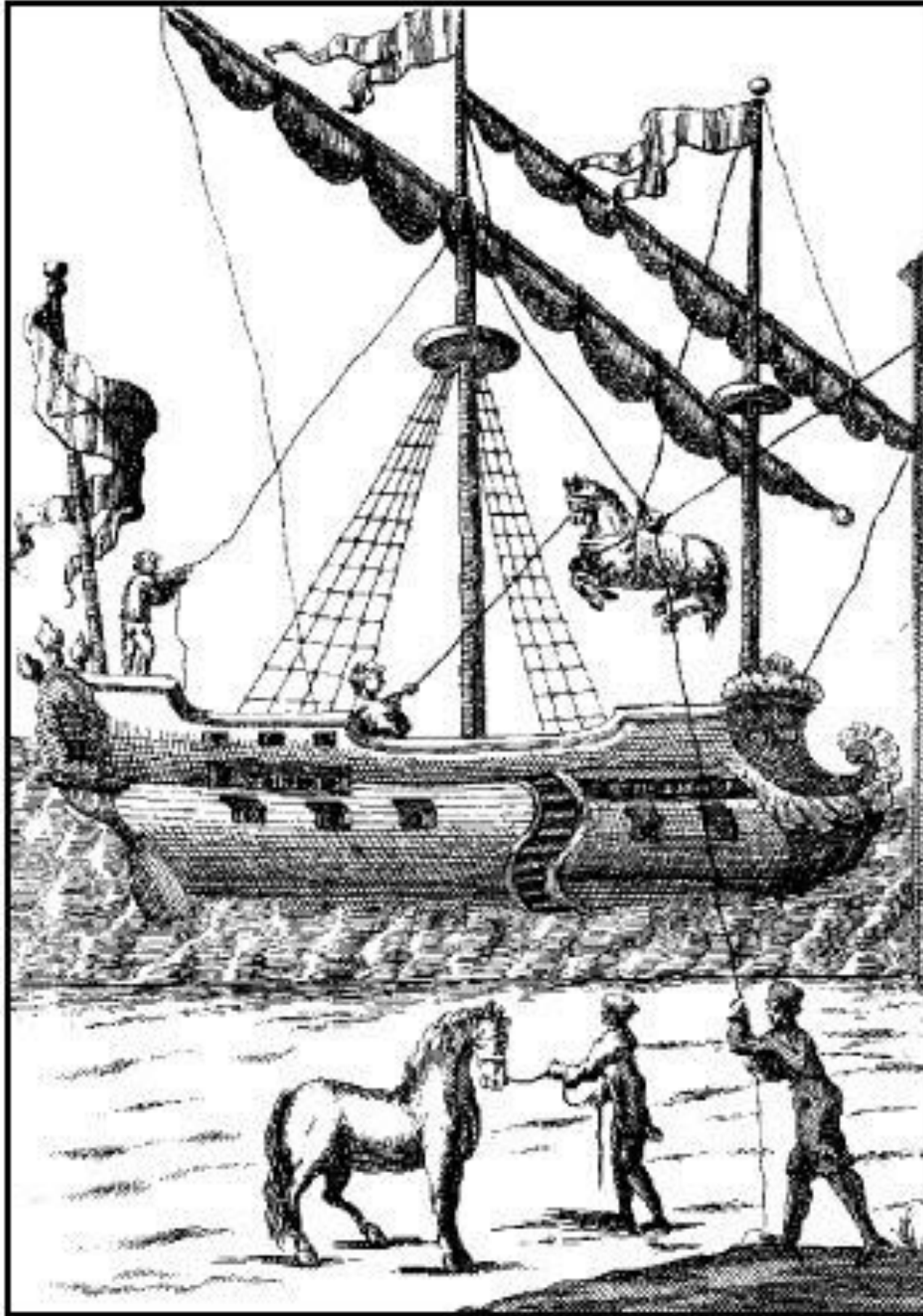
Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494



# Columbian Exchange







Animals

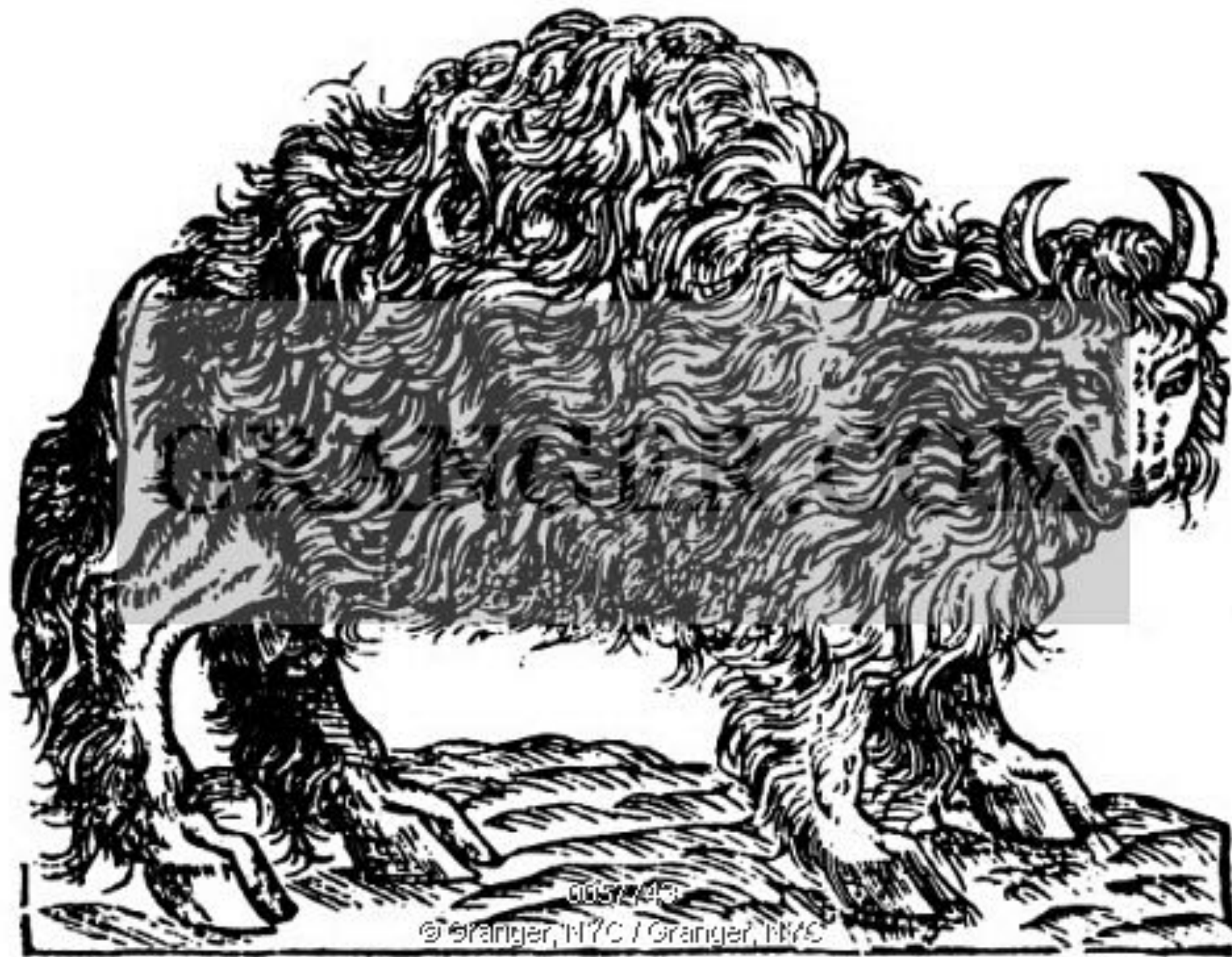




Buffalo hunt (from  
horseback)







(European idea of Buffalo, 1557)



# Plants







Cassava / Yuca / Manioc

**TABLE 2**  
**VARIETIES OF OLD AND**  
**NEW WORLD STAPLES<sup>19</sup>**  
 (in millions of calories per hectare)

Chief American Crops		Chief Old World Crops	
Maize	7.3	Rice	7.3
Potatoes	7.5	Wheat	4.2
Sweet potatoes		Barley	5.1
and yams <sup>a</sup>	7.1		
Manioc	9.9	Oats	5.5

<sup>a</sup> Food and Agricultural Organization documents group sweet potatoes and yams together. The caloric value for sweet potatoes is higher than for yams, and more sweet potatoes are raised than yams, so I feel justified in including this statistic.



# Disease (Smallpox)





# Disease (Syphilis)

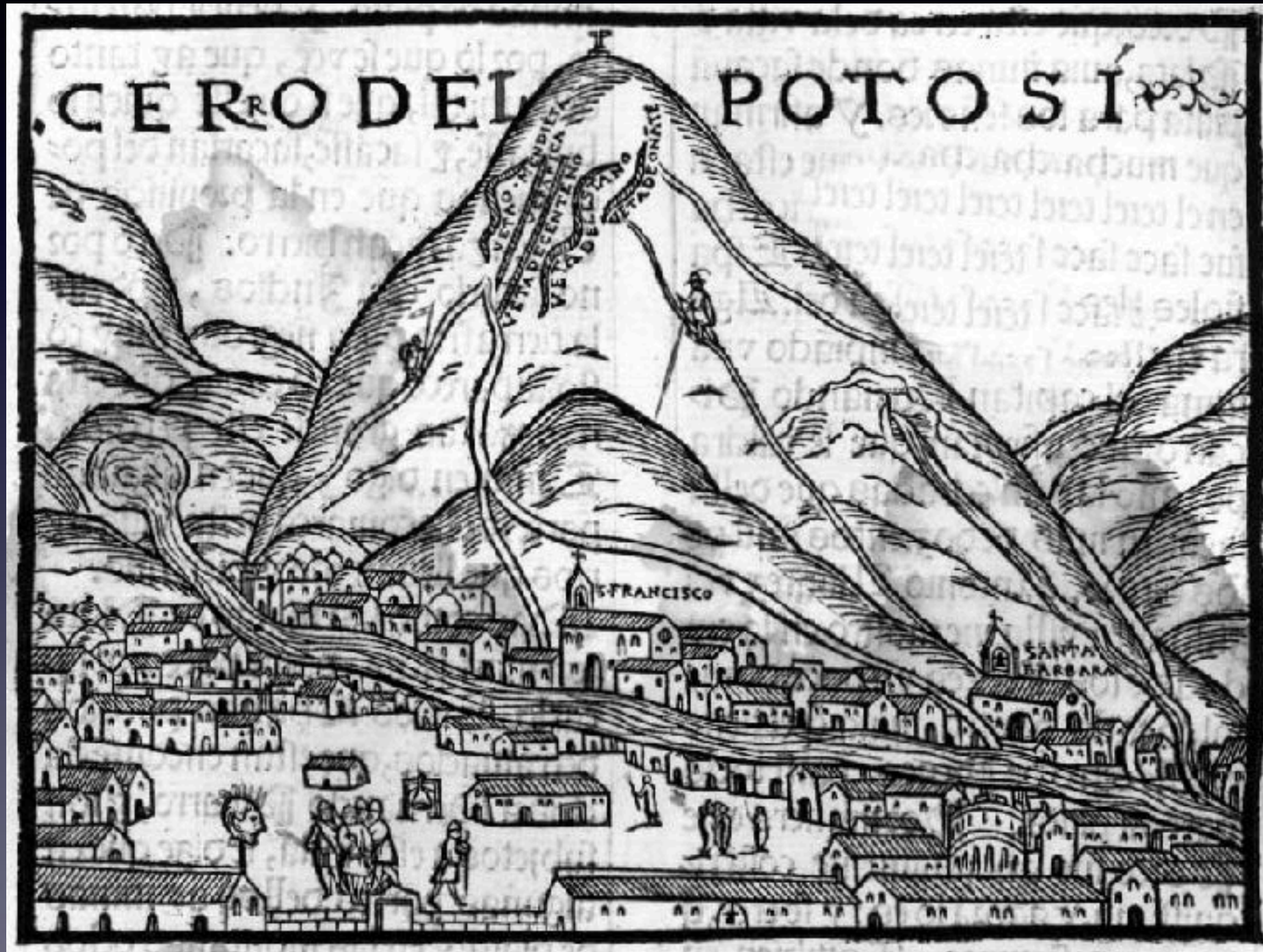




# debate over origins of Syphilis



# Silver





Your thoughts: what is the relationship between the Columbian Exchange and emerging European dominance?



# Early British North America



Jamestown, first permanent settlement (1607)



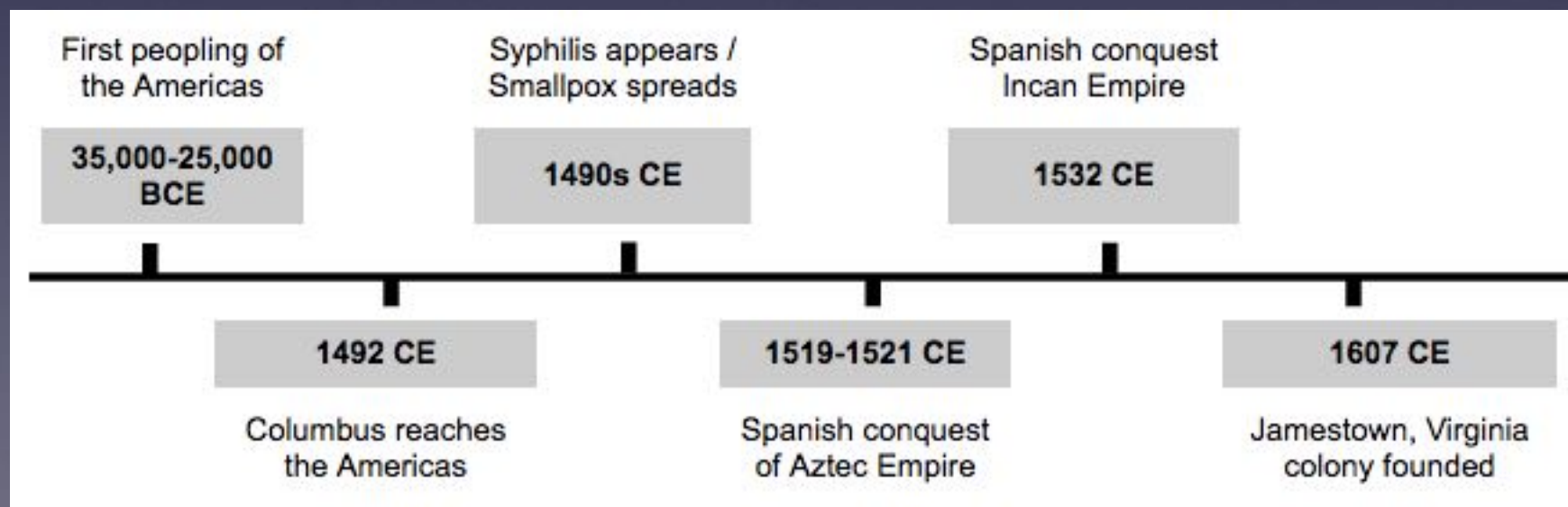
# Conclusions

1. Following Columbus' voyages, an interdependent global economic system emerges.
2. European dominance is in significant part a consequence of the Columbian Exchange.
3. Diseases aid conquest; European animals provide sustenance, and American crops spread globally.
4. During the early seventeenth century, the increasingly powerful British empire established a foothold in North America at Jamestown, Virginia.



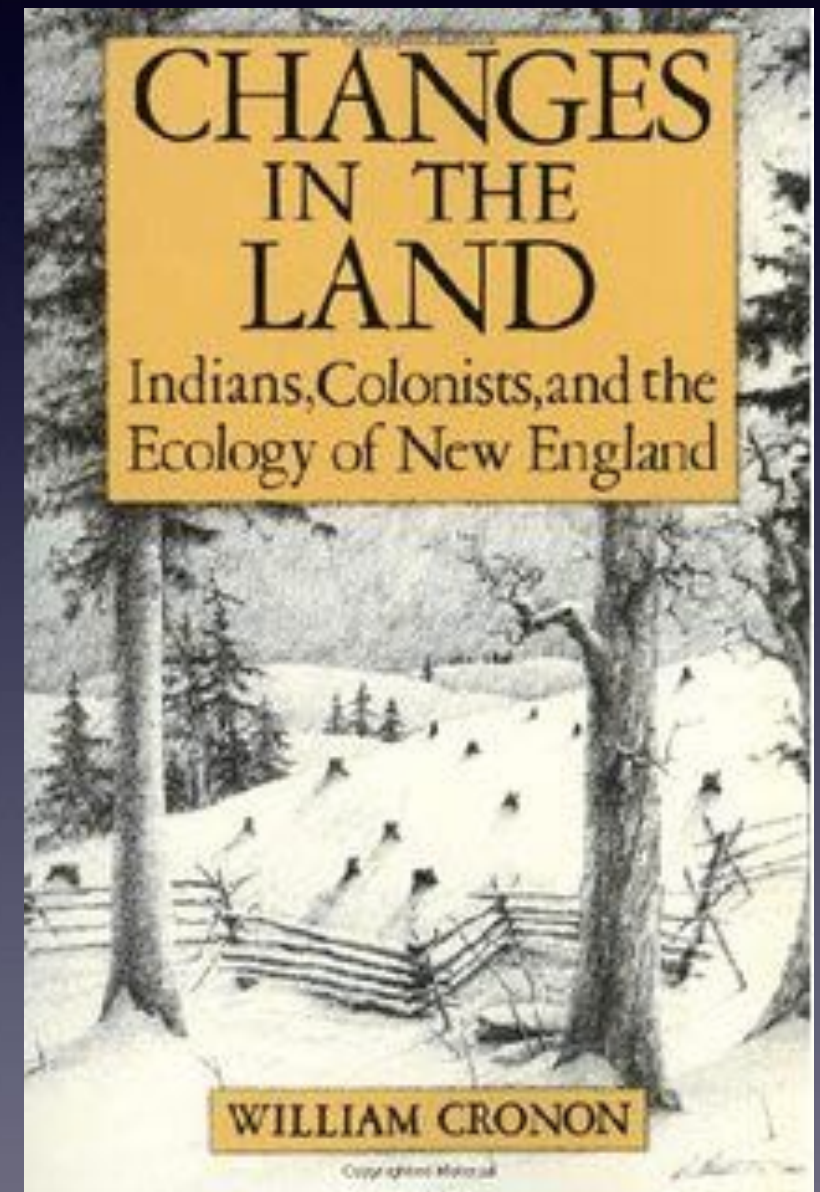
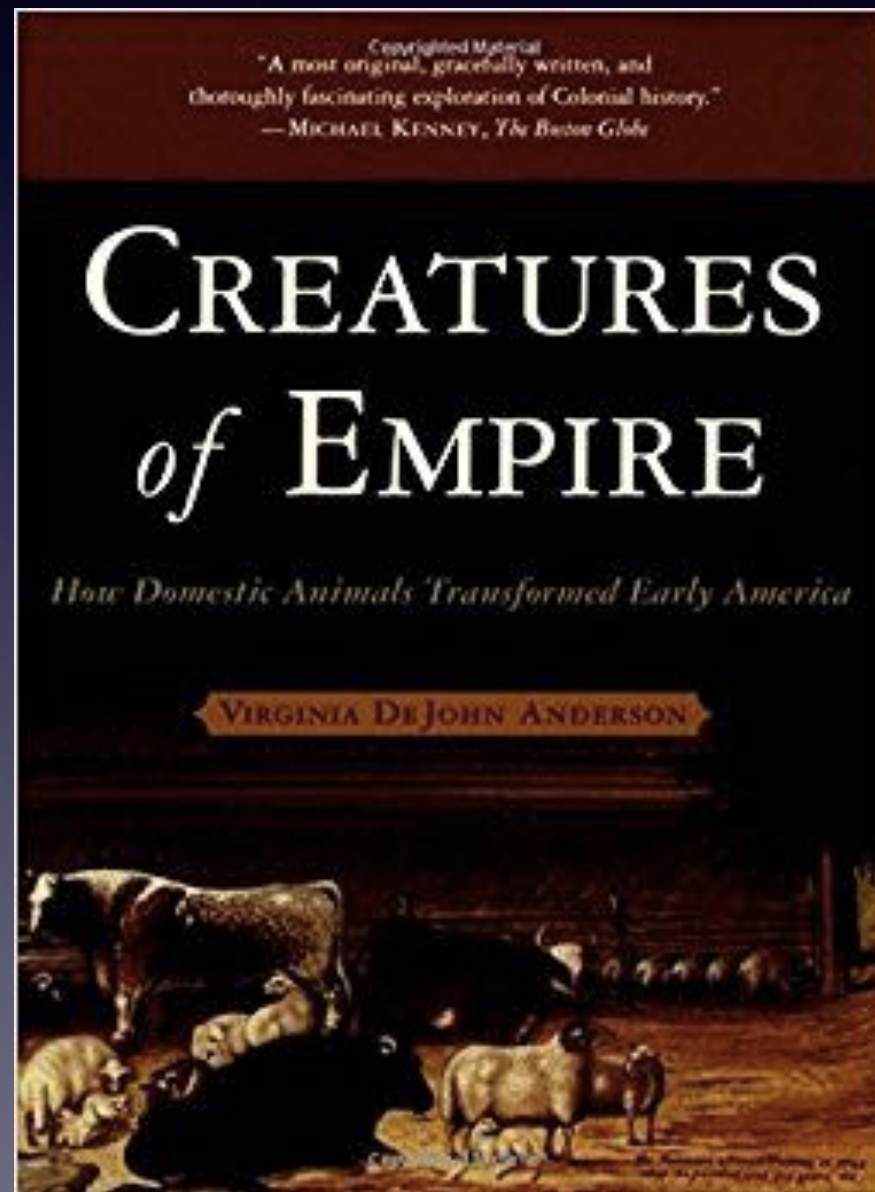
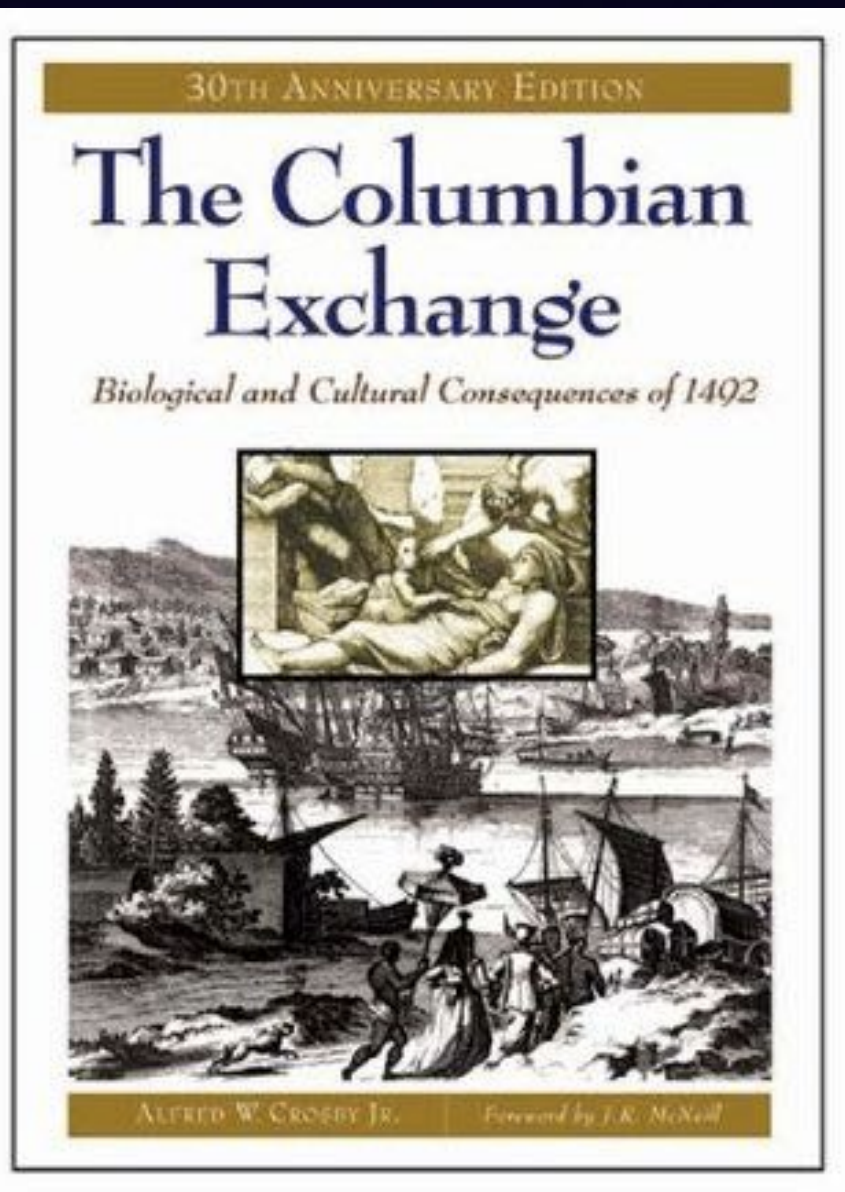
# Key terms / dates

- Columbian Exchange
- Jamestown
- Potosi
- Spanish Conquest
- Christopher Columbus
- Bering land bridge
- Virgin soil epidemic (Small Pox)





# Further reading...





# Next week....



Rowlandson and Pugin, *West India Docks*, 1810