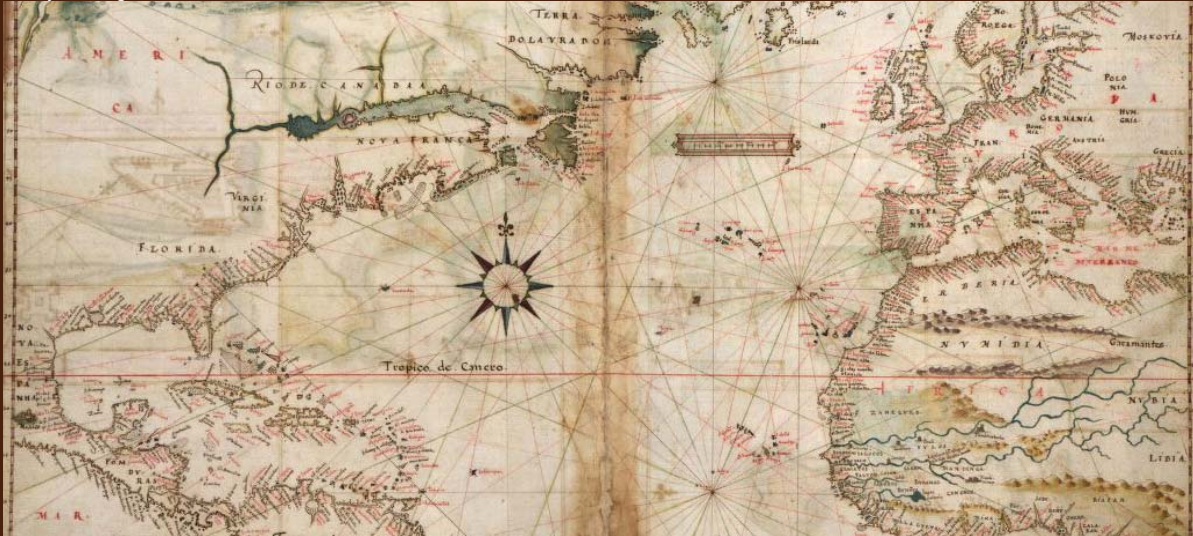


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João Teixeira, map of the north Atlantic Ocean, detail; in Portuguese atlas *Taboas geraes de toda a navegação*, 1630

Controlling Emigration to the New World Colonies: Spain, France, England (1492-1690)

Rule by the mother country of its overseas possessions — the definition of imperial power — is articulated in policies directly stated in monarchs' directives, officials' reports, etc., or implied in settlers' narratives, explorers' accounts, etc. To reflect Spanish, English, and French policies regulating emigration from Europe to North America, three brief selections are presented here: a historian's compilation of trade rules, a ruler's declaration urging settlement of a new colony, and a missionary's account of the results of reformed emigration policies.



Spain: Limiting emigration to the New World.

José Veitia de Linaje, *Norte de la contratación de las Indias occidentales* (*The Rule of Trade to the [West] Indies*), 1672.

... King Ferdinand, in the year 1511, gave an order for all persons whatsoever that were subjects of Spain to be allowed to go over to the Indies without any distinction or examination, only entering their names, that the numbers might be known. Afterwards in the years 1518, 1522,

**No one
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without
leave.**

1530, and 1539, several orders passed which were established as Laws and direct that no person reconciled or newly converted to our Holy Catholic Faith from Judaism or Mahometanism [Islam], nor the children of such, nor the children or grandsons of any that had worn the St. Andrew's Cross of the Inquisition,¹ or been burnt or condemned as heretics or for any heretical crime, either by male or female line, might go over to the Indies, upon pain of forfeiting all their goods, of an hundred lashes, perpetual banishment from the Indies, and their bodies to be at the King's disposal. In the year 1501, Nicholas de Ovando, being appointed governor of Tierra Firme,² was commanded

Excerpted, images added, and some spelling and punctuation modernized by the National Humanities Center, 2006: www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/pds/pds.htm. Linaje, *The Rule of Trade*, and Cromwell declaration in Eric Williams, ed., *Documents of West Indian History* (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad: PNM Publ. Co., 1963), vol. I, pp. 41-46, 290-291. Permission pending. Le Clercq, *First Establishment*, 1691 in John G. Shea, trans., *First Establishment of the Faith in New France by Father Christian Le Clercq* (New York: John G. Shea, 1881), vol. II, pp. 15-19, 52-55, 59-61. Complete image credits at www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/pds/amerbegin/imagecredits.htm.

¹ During the Spanish Inquisition, being forced to wear the St. Andrew's cross (an x-shaped cross) marked one as a penitent heretic or infidel.

² Tierra Firme: northern coast of South America, known in English as the "Spanish Main" (mainland).

not to permit any Moors³ [Muslims], Jews, heretics, or new converts to live in that country, except slaves born under Christian masters who are natives of Spain. . . .

King Philip II . . . in the year 1552, to prevent false informations, ordered that for the future the Judges or Commissioners of the India-House should not suffer [allow] any person whatsoever . . . to go over to the Indies unless they brought certificates from the places where they were born, to make appear whether they were married or single, declaring that they are neither Jews nor Moors, nor children of such . . . such certificate to be signed by the magistrates of the city, town or place where such persons are born. . . .



Having declared that no persons may go over to the Indies without leave [permission], and whereas the King may grant it to whom he pleases, it remains to show to whom the President and Commissioners may grant leave. They are not only to grant leave to Mestizos, that is, Mongrels between Spaniards and Indians who are brought into Spain, but to oblige [require] them to return, and to furnish them with necessaries [provisions], if they have not of their own. They may grant passes to merchants to go over, or return if they came from thence, including married merchants, provided they have leave from their wives and give 1,000 ducats security to return within three years. . . .

Married women, whose husbands are in the Indies, are permitted to go over with them, and to take along with a kinsman [relative] . . . but if the husbands themselves come for their wives, they may not return without the King's leave. In all cases whatsoever, the women are to make the same proofs as the men, as to their qualifications. . . All single women are positively forbid going over to the Indies.

No person, tho' commissioned by the King for any employment in those parts, being a married man, can go over without his wife; and tho' the President and Commissioners can give leave to merchants who have their wives' consent, yet they cannot to Governors or any other Officers without His Majesty's express dispensation in this case. . . .

The inhabitants of the Indies may not come to Spain without leave from the Viceroy, Presidents, or Governors of the places of their habitation, in which they are to express the causes of their coming and whether it is to stay here or return . . .

. . . the law says that from the time the ships sail from the Indies, till they are searched in Seville [Spain], no man is to go ashore . . . under pain of forfeiture of goods to the master of the ship. . . .

King Philip II, in the year 1560, made an Ordinance to restrain any persons from going to the Indies without license, by which all they shall acquire in those parts is forfeited to the Crown, only one fifth for the informer, and that they be secured and sent prisoners into Spain at their own expense: and any effects [possessions] of theirs brought by them, or sent over, not to be delivered to them or their order, nor to their heirs if they be dead, but to be confiscate to the King.

³ Moors: Arab Muslims who conquered Spain in the 700s and were expelled from Spain in 1492.



whatsoever other favor or immunity or protection shall or may conduce to the welfare, strength, and improvement of the said island

England: Encouraging settlement of Jamaica.

Proclamation of Oliver Cromwell, Protector of England, 1655.

Whereas, by the good providence of God, our fleet, in their late [last] expedition into America, have possessed themselves of a certain island called Jamaica, spacious in its extent, commodious in its harbors and rivers within itself, healthful by its situation, fertile in the nature of the soil, well stored with horses and other cattle, and generally fit to be planted and improved, to the advantage, honor, and interest, of this nation;

And whereas divers persons, merchants, and others, heretofore conversant [experienced] in plantations [colonies] and the trade of like nature, and desirous to undertake and proceed upon plantations and settlements upon that island;

We, therefore, for the better encouragement of all such persons so inclined, have, by the advice of our council, taken care not only for the strengthening and securing of that island from all enemies, but for the constituting and settling of a civil government, by such good laws and customs as are and have been exercised in colonies and places of the like nature, have appointed surveyors and other public officers, for the more equal distribution of public right and justice in the said island.

And, for the further encouragement to the industry and good affection of such persons, we have provided and given orders to the commissioners of our customs [import/export taxes], that every planter or adventurer to that island shall be exempt and free from paying any excise [tax] or custom for any manufactures, provisions, or any other goods or necessities which he or they shall transport to the said island of Jamaica, within the space of seven years to come from Michaelmas⁴ next.

And also that sufficient caution and security be given by the said commissioners that such goods shall be delivered at Jamaica only. And we have also, out of our special consideration of the welfare and prosperity of that island, provided that no customs, or other tax or impost, be laid or charged upon any commodity which shall be the produce and native growth of that island . . . We have also given our special orders and directions that no embargo or other hindrance, upon any pretense whatsoever, be laid upon any ships, seamen, or other passengers or adventurers which shall appear to be engaged and bound for the said island.

And we do hereby further declare, for ourselves and successors, that whatsoever other favor or immunity or protection shall or may conduce to the welfare, strength, and improvement of the said island shall from time to time be continued and applied thereunto.



"Jamahica" (Jamaica), south of Cuba

⁴ Michaelmas: feast of St. Michael the Archangel on September 29 in the Christian calendar. In medieval England, Michaelmas was the fall quarterly day on which rents were due and other monetary accounts were to be settled.



sparing
nothing
to
establish
this
colony

France. Improving the settlers of New France.

Fr. Chrestien Le Clercq, *Premier établissement de la Foy dans la Nouvelle-France (First Establishment of the Faith in New France)*, 1691.

[G]reat injustice has been done to Canada, from which they now apparently begin to recover, in believing that the colony is made up only of nobodies, debauchees, libertines, fallen women, fugitives from justice, or at best subjects and families driven to these new countries by disgrace or reverse of fortune. . . .

I know that, on the part of France, they have often sent over suspected persons among many of honor; but this justice is due to the governors and missionaries of the country, that they suffered [allowed] nothing impure, libertine, or irregular. The settlers were examined and chosen, contraband goods and vicious or marked persons were sent back to France as soon as known. . . .

I could scarcely conceive how a colony made up of men from every province of France, so different in manners, race, condition, interest, and natural disposition, as well as contrary in mode of life, customs, education, could be as accomplished as I was told. I know that this is due chiefly to those who went there after 1663,⁵ but it is true that when I was on the spot I found nothing had been exaggerated; New France being in this respect more fortunate than colonies lately established in other parts of the world. . . .

The Church of New France, far from making any progress, could not subsist long unless a more powerful arm than that of the gentlemen of the Company came to her assistance in the extremity to which Canada was reduced in 1663. . . .

Till then the king reserved only the sovereign authority, having yielded the domain and the property, seignery, and commerce of New France to the gentleman of the Company, on condition that they should pay all charges at their own expense. These gentlemen had doubtless good intentions, and we knew that most had joined only from a zeal for religion. They had made great efforts in the first years, but, being finally weary of so many useless outlays which produced no return, they had for the last years abandoned the commerce to the inhabitants of the country

[King Louis XIV, after achieving peace in Europe] wished to turn his zeal to New France, which his Majesty united to his domain, assumed the debts of the country, undertook to provide all the expenses of the Church, justice, and war, established a company for the sole direction of commerce in a single hand, which has since been so advantageous to the inhabitants, a true father and savior of Canada. . . . Of all the effects of protection which



⁵ In 1663 King Louis XIV of France took control of New France from the Company of One Hundred Associates, a group of private investors who had failed to produce a thriving colony in the decades since the company's formation in 1624.

his bounty occasioned during the present epoch, the most advantageous was the powerful assistance he sent — intelligent and enlightened ministers and officers capable of giving a form to this rising country, with considerable sums drawn from his treasury, and sparing nothing to establish this colony. He sent also experienced troops to repel the enemy and sustain the inhabitants. . . .

The colony, which was as yet only a handful of settlers scattered here and there in different cantons, was notably increased by the number of officers and soldiers who chose to settle when the troops were disbanded, and who formed more than three hundred new families. To each soldier the king allowed fifty livres and rations for a year, to a sergeant fifty crowns, and to an officer in proportion. Sixty leagues of land ascending the Saint Lawrence, on the lakes, rivers, and inland, were divided up. The lands were erected into seigneuries for the captains and officers, each seigneur granting farms in his district to his soldiers and others who came from France, so that in a few years the clearing and cultivation of the lands having materially increased, they were able to support the settlers. The young women sent over in great numbers by the king in the following years found regular settlements, and were advantageously married according to their degree.⁶



⁶ When New France became a royal province in 1663, there were six male colonists of marriageable age for every European-born female. [France in America / La France en Amérique, from the Library of Congress and the Bibliothèque National de France, at international.loc.gov/intldl/fiahtml/fiahome.html].