

CHAPTER 2 – AMERICAN EXPERIMENTS (1521-1700)

Spain's Tribute Colonies



The New American World

- Encomienda system** – land grants provided to conquistadores from which they could exploit labor & resources (gold & silver)
- Mita system** – refashioning of an Incan labor system by Spanish to force natives to work in silver mines (ex. **Potosi**)
- Spanish exchanged silver across Pacific Ocean for Chinese goods; gold shipped to Europe and enriched Spanish Crown and Church
- 1500-1650 – 350,000 Spaniards (mostly men) migrate to colonies; 250,000-300,000 Africans imported to colonies



The New American World

-**Casta system** – Social hierarchy established in Spanish colonies defining status/privilege:

- * Peninsulares – 100% Spanish blood, born in Europe

- * Creoles – 100% Spanish blood, born in colonies

- * Mestizos – Mixed race (Spanish-native)

- * Mulattoes – Mixed race (Spanish-African)

- * Zambos – Mixed race (native-African); Native American; African

-**Haciendas** – large estates established by Spaniards to manipulate local native labor and market economies

-Catholicism forced upon natives through mass conversion, yet practices/beliefs mix with native traditions



The Columbian Exchange

- -Native populations decimated by European disease (smallpox, flu, measles, yellow fever); natives give Europeans STD syphilis
- -**Columbian Exchange** – Biological transfer of foods/diseases between Old World and New World

New World foods lead to Old World population growth:

-Maize, potatoes, manioc, sweet potatoes, tomatoes

Old World plants/animals change New World ecosystem:

-cattle, pigs, horses, oxen, chickens, bees, wheat, barley, rye, rice

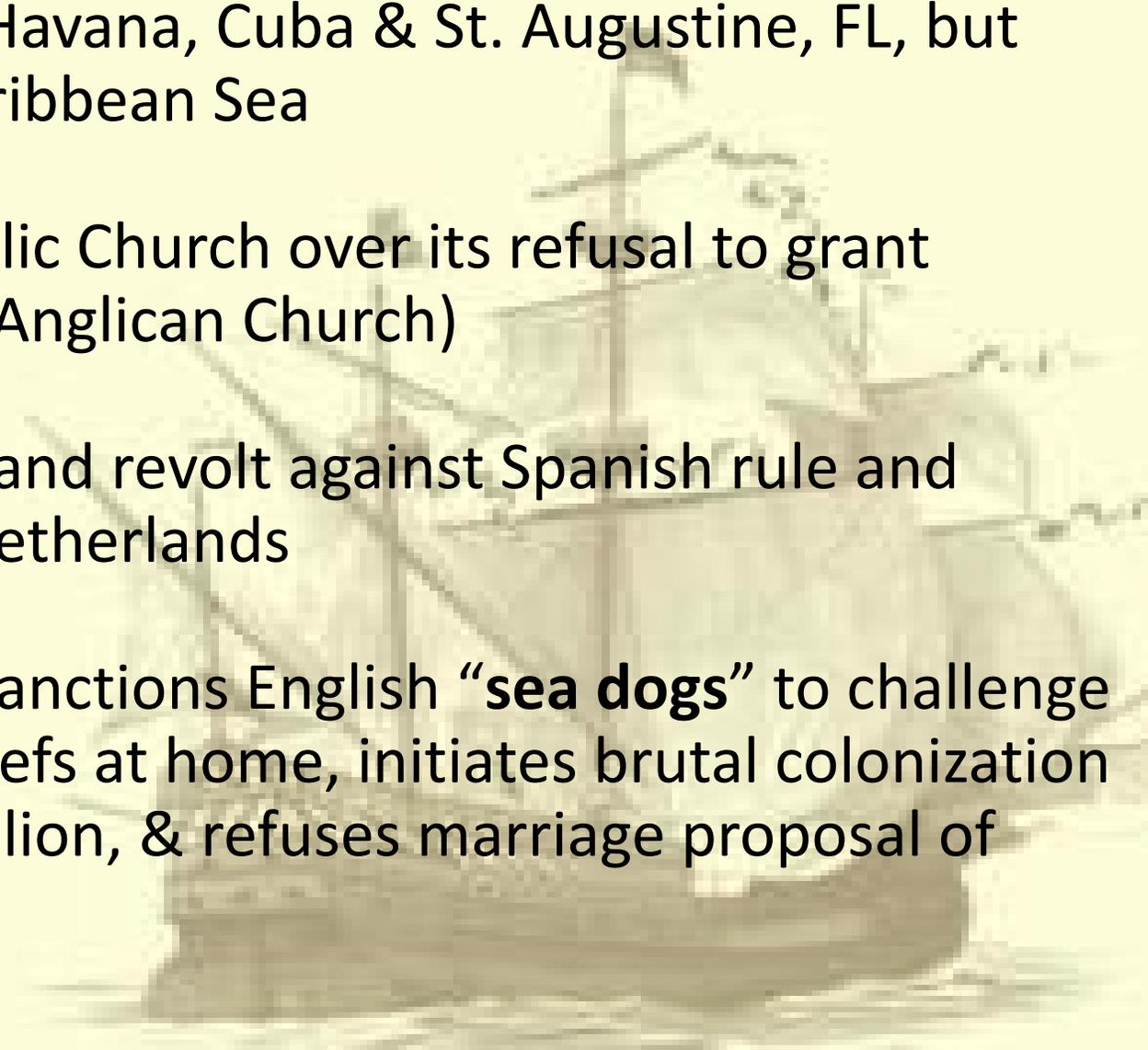
The Protestant Challenge to Spain

-Spain established fortified positions at Havana, Cuba & St. Augustine, FL, but faced many pirates/privateers across Caribbean Sea

-1534 CE – **Henry VIII** breaks from Catholic Church over its refusal to grant divorce; establishes **Church of England** (Anglican Church)

-1566-1581 CE – Dutch provinces in Holland revolt against Spanish rule and declare independence as a republic of Netherlands

-1558-1603 CE – **Elizabeth I** of England sanctions English “**sea dogs**” to challenge Spanish at sea, promotes Protestant beliefs at home, initiates brutal colonization of Catholic Ireland, supports Dutch rebellion, & refuses marriage proposal of Spain’s **King Philip II**



The Protestant Challenge to Spain

- Sir Francis Drake** – English “sea dog” who circumnavigated the globe, raided Spanish shipping lines, & plundered gold/silver/spices
- 1588 CE – **Spanish Armada** – Philip II’s massive fleet of warships fails to invade/punish England & Elizabeth (storm & English ships)
- 1598 CE – Spain in serious economic decline due to overspending, inflation due to overabundance of gold, and resulting high taxes
- England sees population rise, growth in wool “cottage industry”, and embrace of mercantilism
- Mercantilism** – economic system in which state promotes exports over imports, gaining favorable balance of trade & gold/silver

