

Q1 Causes of Colonization of America?

1) Background:

Out of all the European Powers who sought to make colonies in 'new world', England, Spain, and France were the chief powers who managed to earn a name for themselves. Spain was indeed the first European nation to enter America, and established colonies in southern North America. France entered America and created intensive fur and fish trade by claiming major lands in the North Atlantic and Canada. Britain entered North America after France, with figures like John Cabot exploring the eastern coast of North America. Britain was able to restore its Reformation, wrecked economy, and status by settling on the ~~mid~~ Atlantic coast and planting the seeds of a new type of mighty colonialism. All these three powers were not as focused on exploring the land as they were on colonizing it. Though each nation had its own goals in the 'new world',

all three expected the land of America to gain wealth and power there.

2) Causes of Colonization

The colonization of America by European Powers, such as particularly England, Spanish, French, was driven by several key reasons:

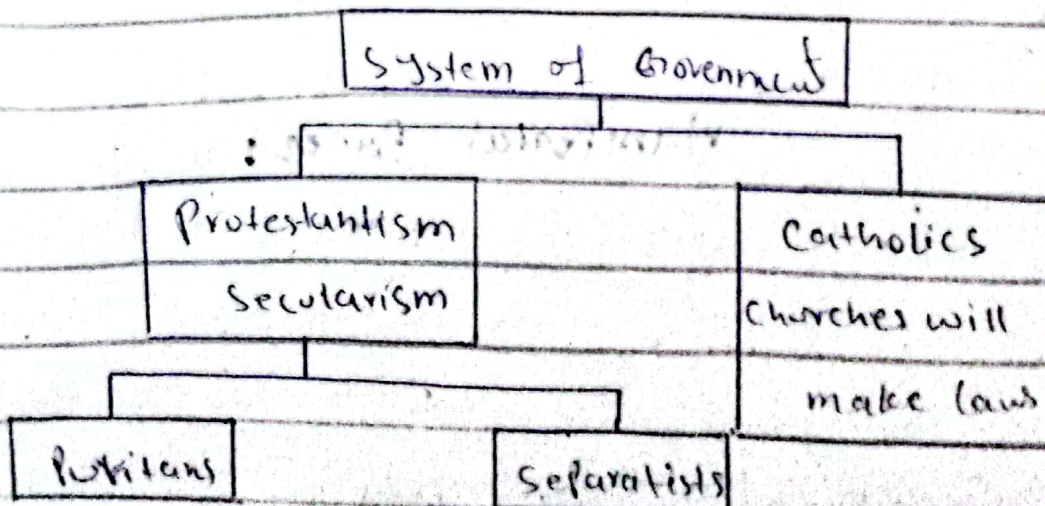
i) **Renaissance in Europe:** During the renaissance in Europe, which began around 1400 AD, there was a profound resurgence of classical learning and intellectual curiosity. In this period of heightened creativity and exploration, mariners and navigators like Christopher Columbus were being financed to find out the safest and shortest possible route to Asia.

Europeans were improving in technology from gun powder to the enhanced navigator tools, such as sailing compass, improved ship building, and improved mapmaking. These technological innovations, coupled with spread of knowledge through Printing Press after 1450, contributed to the Europeans' eagerness for learning and exploration, thereby laid the

groundwork for the colonization of
America.

ii) Religious Persecution in Europe

Religious Persecution in Europe compelled many individuals and groups to find sanctuaries in the Americas, where they could practice their religion freely. This quest for religious freedom led to the colonization of America by religious minorities like Pilgrims and Puritans. Missionaries tried to convert indigenous people to Christianity, adding a religious dimension to colonization. Besides, the English monarchy established Protestant colonies in America to assert England's influence and presence in the New World, particularly as a response to France's colonial activities.



iii) **Search for New Routes:** After the conquest of Constantinople by the Ottomans in 1453, Europeans were eagerly finding a shortest and safest route which could connect them to the sub-continent again. Not being an agrarian continent, Europe was heavily ~~depen~~ dependent on the Asia for trade, herbs, and agriculture. But the discovery of America provided Europe with a vast land with favourable weather conditions and rivers, such as Mississippi and Missouri. So, they started making colonies on the coast of Atlantic ocean.

iv) **Pressure of Population:** Overpopulation and limited opportunities in Europe motivated individuals and families to seek new lands and opportunities in the Americas.

v) **Imperial Power:** In the era of imperialism, the common perspective was that possessing more colonies would grant a country superpower status. This perspective contrasts with contemporary criteria for being a superpower. Consequently, imperial powers in Europe were consistently trying to acquire

more land and establish more colonies, gaining upper hand in global affairs. This quest for power motivated European monarchies, including England, France, and Spain, to colonize America.

vi) **Search for El Dorado:** The term "El Dorado" or "Golden Land" was a legendary concept during the age of exploration and colonization in the Americas. It referred to the mythical city or region believed to be fabulously rich in gold and other treasures. European explorers and conquistadors, motivated by the allure of vast wealth, searched for El Dorado in various parts of the Americas.

vii) **Royal Proclamations:** Monarchs, such as the kings and queens of England, Spain, and Portugal, issued formal proclamations, grants, or charters that granted individuals, companies, and organizations the right to establish colonies in Americas' specific regions. There are many examples of it but some of them are as follows:

Virginia Company: Virginia Company received a royal charter from King James I

in 1606, which allowed the establishment of Virginia Colony in North America.

• Massachusetts Bay Company: In

1629, the Massachusetts Bay Company received a royal charter from King Charles I, granting Puritan colonists the right to establish a colony in Massachusetts Bay area.

• Spanish Crown: The Spanish Crown issued various grants and charters known as "Capitulaciones" to explorers like ~~his~~ Christopher Columbus and conquistadors like Hernan Cortes, authorising their expeditions to the Americas.

vii) Rise of Joint-Stock Companies in

Europe: The rise of Joint-Stock companies in Europe during the age of exploration was a pivotal development. To avoid the potential risk, Joint-Stock companies allowed multiple investors to pool their financial resources together to support ambitious colonial ventures. Two notable examples are: Dutch East India Company (VOC), and Virginia Company.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the colonization of the Americas by European Powers was driven by a complex web of factors. These included the economic factors such as the pursuit of wealth and resources, religious freedom and escape from persecution, technological advancements that made exploration feasible, competition among European Powers for supremacy and Empire building, the rise of Joint-stock companies to fund ambitious ventures, a growing middle class with the means and aspirations for colonization, overpopulation in Europe pushed individuals to seek new opportunities, the search for new trade routes and strategic advantages, as well as royal Proclamations authorizing colonization efforts. These interconnected factors shaped the course of history in America, leading to diverse colonial experiences and consequences for both indigenous people and the European Powers themselves.