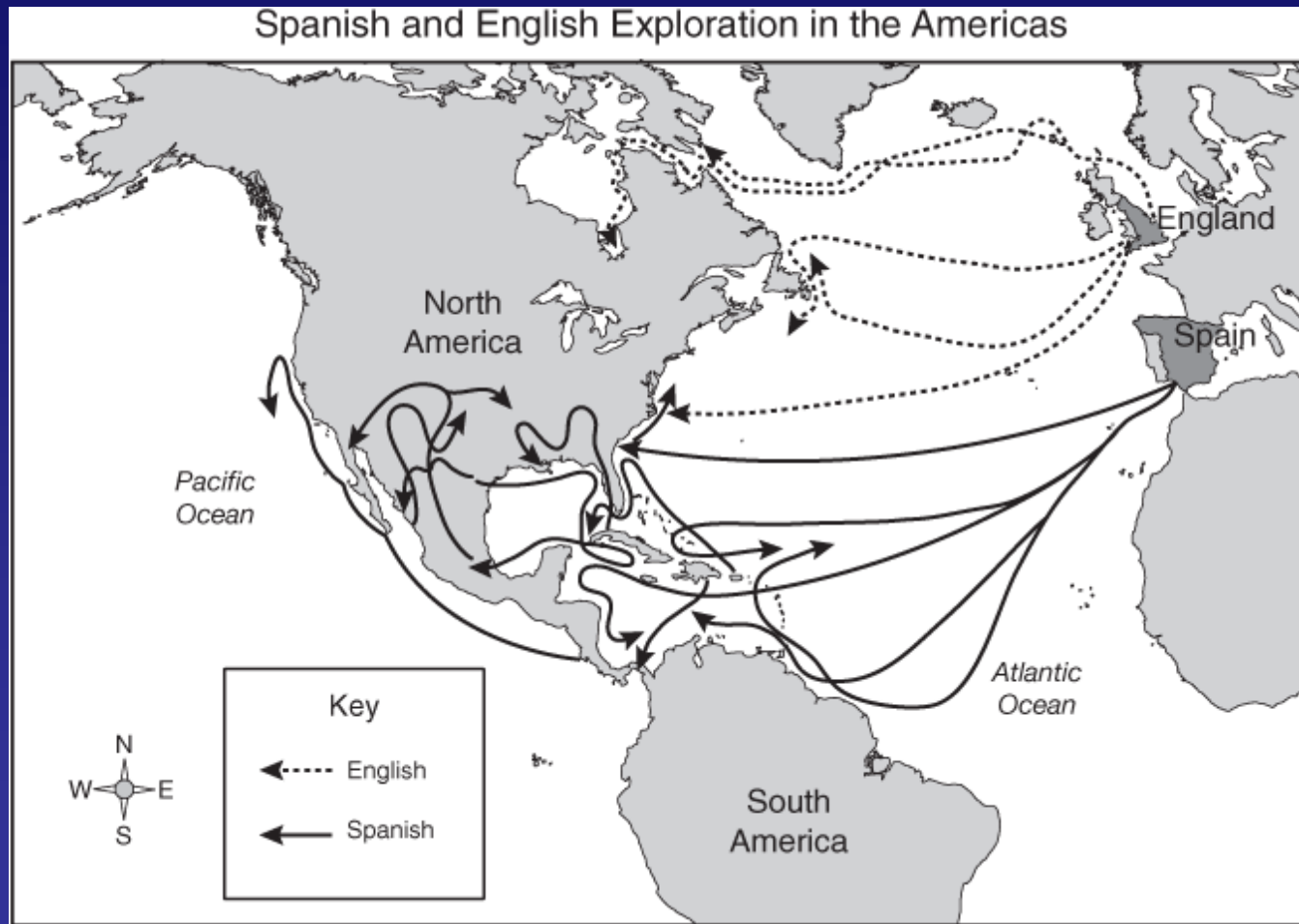


European Exploration the Age of Discovery



Background to Exploration

- Europe had been isolated from the rest of the world prior to 1400
- Crusades had introduced Europeans to a variety of goods and ideas
- Marco Polo's accounts of China spread interest
- Desire for wealth and the spread of Christianity
- Advances in sailing technology made long-distance trips possible
- Italians and Muslims controlled trade from the East to the West



Purposes for Exploration



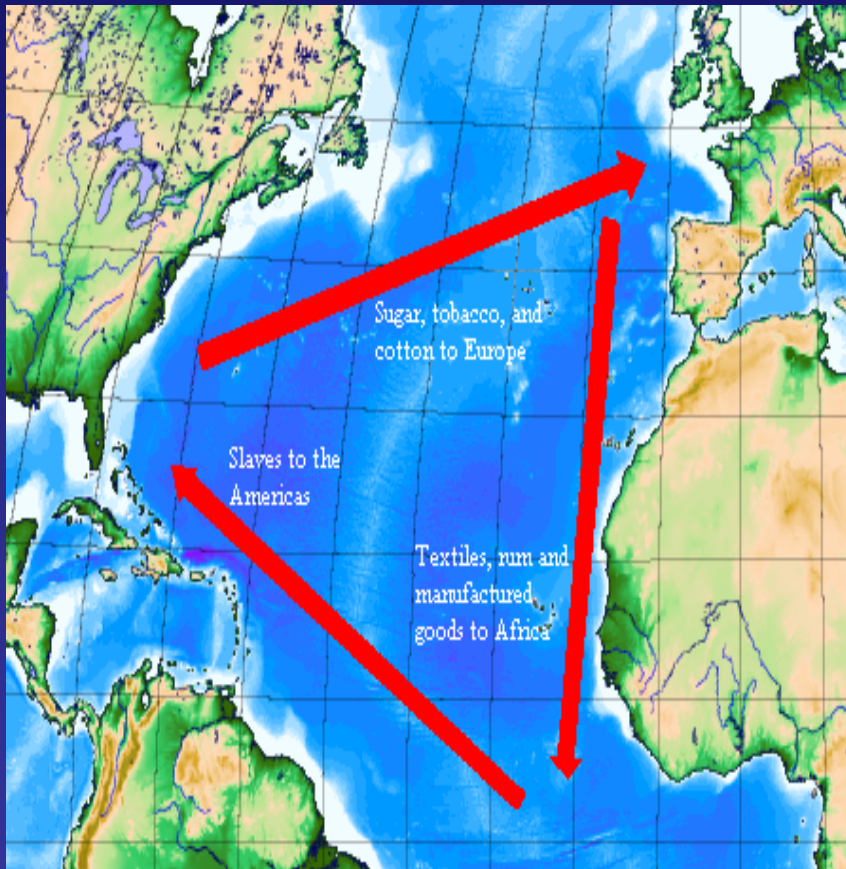
- “God, Gold and Glory”
- Spread Christianity
- Find riches
- Fame for explorers
- Renaissance thirst for knowledge

Colonization



- Colonies were lands controlled by another country
- Colonies were established to drain the conquered lands of their wealth (gold, silver), then convert the natives and establish European control of the area
- Colonies then became producers of products sought by Europeans, especially sugar in the Caribbean
- Later colonies were established by the English, French and Dutch in North America as trading outposts or refuges for persecuted religious groups
- Early colonial powers were Portugal, Spain, Dutch, England, and France

Economic Effects of Colonization



- Created great wealth that resulted in new business and trade practices in Europe
- Set up global transfer of foods, plants, and animals that during the colonization of the Americas was known as the Columbian Exchange
- A new policy of mercantilism where a country's power depended on its wealth
- The rapid influx of wealth caused inflation in Europe

The Colonized People



- Europeans brought diseases to native populations that quickly spread to the more susceptible natives, who then died by the millions
- Entire populations were enslaved and forced to work for the Europeans
- Natives were forced to convert to Christianity
- Plantation economies set up by Europeans produced cash crops for export at the expense of the local population
- Colonized countries were left in a totally dependent condition of servitude to the mother country