

Chapter 2: Midwest Tribes' First Contact w/ French & Spanish, Introduction to Horses & Guns

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Early 1700s: Cultural Impact of *The French Conquest of The Great Lakes on the Great Plains Tribes*

The Introduction of *Guns*

&

Mid to Late 1700s: Cultural Impact of *The Pueblo Revolution Against The Spanish*

The Introduction of *Domesticated Horses*



*Blackfoot Man hunting, name & photographer uncited:
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/564920346991606355/>*

***First Contact w/
Europeans***

I. Early 1700s: Cultural Impact of *The French Conquest of The Great Lakes on the Great Plains Tribes*

The Introduction of *Guns*

While the Huron were being driven from their homes by the *French* looking to monopolize the lucrative Great Lakes *fur trade*— called the *Beaver Wars* or *French-Iroquois Wars* of the mid 1600s, they drifted *first* into Lakota country on the northern Mississippi.



From "Adventures in Historyland", Article: "Rise of the Iroquois": "***The Fur Trade in action, Balance of Honesty***" by Robert Griffing:

<https://adventuresinhistoryland.wordpress.com/2013/06/08/rise-of-the-iroquois/>

The Lakota then *drove them away*; they *then* settled in *separate groups* throughout Wisconsin & also *north* of the Mississippi headwaters. The Lakota then drove them *further* north to the shores of the Straits of Mackinac. During this time, the Fox,— *deeply concerned that European rifles were being traded to their archenemy, the Lakota*— joined forces with the Haudenosaunee (“Iroquois” *to the French*) in order to disrupt that deadly flow of merchandise.

A Fox Family, 1899 A.D.:



*Source: Fox family, from FamilySearch.org, names uncited:
https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sac_and_Fox_Tribe*

As the bloodshed abated in the Upper Country, the governors of “New France” took advantage of the lull to consolidate their position. Ambassadors went out from Montreal, inviting *all the tribes* to gather for a mass celebration of friendship & peace.

Then the day arrived: in midsummer of 1701 canoes began landing on the beach at Montreal-Sauk: Fox, Winnebago, Potawatomi, Miami, Huron, Anishinabe, Kickapoo & Lakota arrived in their eagle feathers & buffalo robes. In addition to these, *French allied tribes* came with their former enemies: the Five Nations of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy— *Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, & Mohawk* (this was prior to the “sixth nation” of the Confederacy, the *Tuscarora* tribe, being admitted into the league around 1720 A.D.)¹. The Great Peace of Montreal (*French: La Grande paix de Montréal*) was a peace treaty between New France and 40 First Nations of North America. It was signed on August 4, 1701, by Louis-Hector de Callière, governor of New France, and 13 hundred representatives of 40 indigenous nations.²

Kondiaronk— Ceremony of the Treaty of the Great Peace of Montreal



From "France & Britain; The Fur Trade", artist uncited:
<http://interestsinthefurtrade.weebly.com/the-great-peace-of-montreal.html>

- 1 **The Six Nations Confederacy During the American Revolution, Compiled by Park Ranger William Sawyer:** <https://www.nps.gov/fost/learn/historyculture/the-six-nations-confederacy-during-the-american-revolution.htm>
- 2 **Francis, Daniel. *Voices and Visions*. Oxford University Press. p. 82.**

Close to 1,300 people attended, representing 39 separate tribes, & together they feasted & parleyed & smoked the calumet (sacred pipe). The delegates worked out some last-minute details. The Iroquois received the right to hunt in Ontario country, & western tribes were given free access to trade in New York. But important issues remained unresolved. Far more difficult was the matter of the Fox. All through the peace negotiations the Fox protested bitterly that French traders were still supplying their Lakota enemies with guns. Already the arms deals had driven them into a secret alliance with the Iroquois.

Forced to play both sides in the high-stakes game of woodland power politics, the Fox did not take kindly to insult or neglect. French arms continued flowing to both the Lakota & the Anishinabe, & no matter how loudly the Fox objected, the French *refused to listen*.

The Fox war parties began staging *lightning raids* on key French outposts, crippling trade in the Upper Country. Nothing was safe. Isolated villages, canoe portage routes— *Fox raiders hit them all*. The French *unsuccessfully* attacked them repeatedly, but the Fox knew how to live among their own lands better than the French did among these *foreign* ecosystems. The Fox then made peace with the Anishinabe in 1724, & allied themselves in 1727 with their former enemies the Lakota.³ Retaliation by the French would eventually reduce the population of the Fox to ~500, but the tribe continued with their resistance by allying with the Sauk in 1735 to fend off the Europeans & their tribal allies.⁴



"Siege of Fort Detroit" by Fox tribe, artist uncited:

<https://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/the-indian-wars/fox-wars.htm>

3 "An Introduction to Lakota Culture and History": <http://www.dream-catchers.org/lakota-history/>

4 "Fox Wars": <https://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/the-indian-wars/fox-wars.htm>

“Sioux” Is Not Even A Word; *Setting the Record Straight*

It's a *partial* word— a *slang word*; Sioux comes from two words: "*Nadowessi*" comes from the *Chippewa* language— meaning “little serpent”, & "Oux" is the *French* way of *pluralizing* a word in order to denote “more than one”— *the same way we add the letter “s” in English*. The Chippewaeen word for “little serpent” was *pluralized* by the French into the word "Nadowessioux", & then *shortened* into “Sioux”. *Sioux* has no meaning in the Chippewaeen *or* French languages.

Nadowessi refers to the Ojibwa Nation; *Nadowessioux* refers to the Ojibwa Nation *and* the Dakota Tribes; Sioux refers to the Dakota Tribe. *Later* the US government stuck the Lakota *and* Nakota Tribe in this word “Sioux”.

Lakota Oyate (“*Lakota Nation*”) is a proper name— *not* “Sioux Tribe”. Tatanka Oyate (Buffalo Nation) or Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires) are proper names for the Seven *Buffalo Nation Tribes* of the Great Plains.⁵ There are 3 major divisions based on language divisions within these tribes: *Dakota, Lakota, & Nakota*. There are several distinct differences between these tribes.

It is worth noting that the term “Indian” traces its etymological roots to the Old Persian word “Hindu”, or the Sanskrit word “Sindhu”, which denotes “people near the Indus River”.⁶ This term was first misapplied to the indigenous peoples of the Americas following the expedition to the Americas by Christopher Columbus, who arrived on an island in the Bahamas archipelago, which he named *San Salvador*. Columbus was not the first European explorer to reach the Americas, however, having been preceded by *Vikings* led by Leif Erikson around 1000 A.D., who first arrived at *Newfoundland* & traveled beyond, but never really *colonized* like the French, English, or Spanish empires.⁷

5 **Lakota Country Times**, “Sioux is not even a word” by Stacy Makes Good Ta Kola Cou Ota (Has Many Friends) Oglala Lakota Tatanka Oyate Stacy Makes Good Ta Kola Cou Ota (Has Many Friends) Oglala Lakota: <http://www.lakotacountrytimes.com/news/2009-03-12/guest/021.html>

6 **Ancient History Encyclopedia**: <http://www.ancient.eu/article/203/>

7 **"History – Leif Erikson (11th century)". BBC**: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/erikson_leif.shtml

Chapter 2: Midwest Tribes' First Contact w/ French & Spanish, Introduction to Horses & Guns



Photo from "True West", article "Weapons of the Indian Wars- Hurlled from the Stone Age into the Industrial Age, American Indians fought with tenacity", by PHIL SPANGENBERGER- from The Glen Swanson Collection: <http://www.truewestmagazine.com/weapons-of-the-indian-wars/>

II. Mid to Late 1700s: Cultural Impact of *The Pueblo Revolution Against The Spanish*

The Introduction of *Domesticated* Horses

When Spanish explorers rode into the West in the 1540s, their horses were, *in a sense*, coming home. The horses they brought with them were *originally* native to the Great Plains, descendants of the collie-sized {*hyracotherium*} that appeared more than thirty million years ago. *Most* horses went extinct about ten thousand years ago at the end of the last ice age. *Before that*, however, some had crossed the exposed bridge of land that once connected today's Alaska with Siberia, & *as their cousins vanished in the Americas*, they survived & flourished in central Asia, *the largest grassland on earth*.⁸

Depiction of The Hyracotherium (based on fossil record):



PHOTO SOURCE: <http://h2en-gwei.tumblr.com/post/7432511239/hyracotherium-occasionally-seen-with-the-junior>

8 The Gilder Lehrman Institute; Institute of American History, "The Impact of Horse Culture" by Elliott West": www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/early-settlements/essays/impact-horse-culture

Evolution of Feet to Hooves:

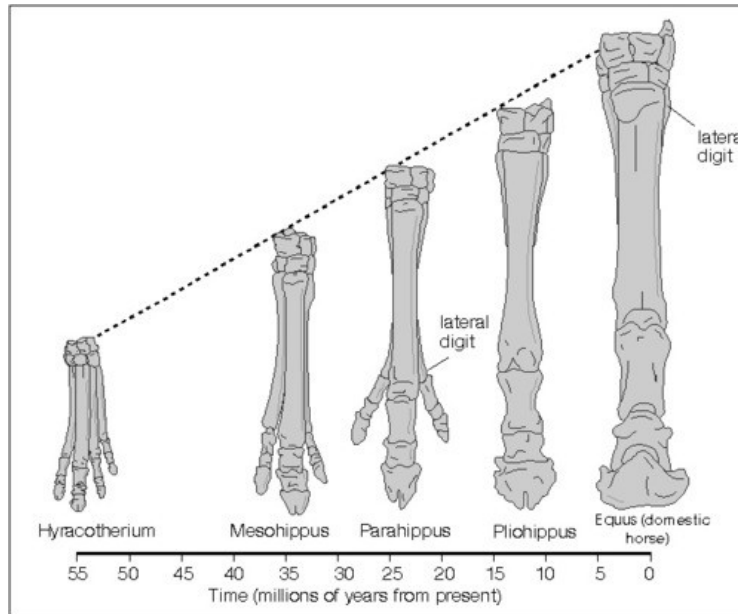
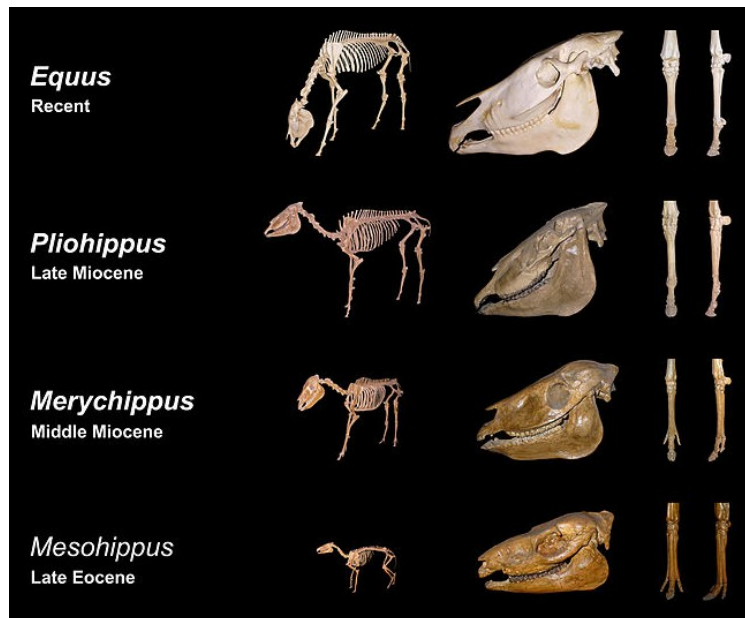


PHOTO SOURCE: <http://h2engewei.tumblr.com/post/7432511239/hyracotherium-occasionally-seen-with-the-junior>

Equine Evolution (not to scale):



Composed from Skeletons of Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde Karlsruhe, Germany. Highest point of the withers Equus 1.5 m, Pliohippus 1.2 m, Merychippus 0.8 m, Mesohippus 0.5 m.: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Equine_evolution.jpg

Ancient Horses Crossed from N. America, First Domesticated in Asia:

Roughly five thousand years ago people on that vast pasture first domesticated horses, & the first horse culture— *that is*, a way of life centered on the animal's gifts & possibilities— was *born*.⁹ Horses appear to have been first domesticated around 4000 B.C. somewhere in the Asian Steppes. The earliest archaeological evidence of horses being used for milk & for riding comes from the Botai culture of Kazakhstan. Prior to domestication, the Botai hunted wild horses—*Equus ferus*—with bows, arrows, & spears.

An *Equus ferus* tarpan:



Modern domesticated horses descended from this species. By 2000 B.C., the nomadic people of Central Asia developed the chariot, a military vehicle that was a major advance in the warfare of the time.

Around 1600 B.C., the “Chariot Age” began among the Hurrian people of the highland kingdom of Mitanni. These people who lived in the mountainous regions of modern-day Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, & Iraq. They were closely associated with horses, & their name for their country was Ishuwa, which translates “horse land”. The Hurrian warriors rode in light, fast chariots, & were armed with bows & arrows as well as thrusting spears & hand weapons. These elite warriors were soon in demand as mercenaries for the emerging kingdoms & city states of Mesopotamia.¹⁰

Life on horseback offered enormous advantages in trade, hunting, & especially warfare, & beginning with the peoples of central Asia, most horse cultures would turn to conquest, & most peoples conquered by them would in turn adopt the horse & its expansive life. Thus horse cultures spread to *China, the Middle East, North Africa, & Europe*.¹¹

9 **The Gilder Lehrman Institute; Institute of American History, “The Impact of Horse Culture” by Elliott West**: www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/early-settlements/essays/impact-horse-culture

10 **Daily KOS, “Ancient Asia: The Domesticated Horse” by Ojibwa, 10-7-2012**: www.dailykos.com/story/2012/10/7/1141272/-Ancient-Asia-The-Domesticated-Horse

11 **The Gilder Lehrman Institute; Institute of American History, “The Impact of Horse Culture”...**

Mural depicting victory of General Hang Yichao over the Tibetan Empire in 848 A.D.:¹²



**Birch Bark Plate from Silla Kingdom's (57 B.C.- A.D. 935),
"Cheonmachong", the Tomb of the Heavenly Horse:¹³**



12 Mogao cave 156, late Chinese Tang Dynasty:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dunhuang_Zhang_Yichao_army.jpg

13 The Gyeongju National Museum, from "Gateway to Korea", article "Silla artifacts welcome museum-goers": <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Culture/view?articleId=118280>

History of Horse Culture in Spain:

We know horses had arrived around 30,000 years ago to Spain due to the fabulous cave drawings discovered in Alta Mira (at right) & other caves marked in the same time period.



Around 711 A.D., the Moorish (Muslim) conquest of Andalusia & most of the Iberian Peninsula greatly altered horse culture in Spain. The Moorish cavalry, mounted on swift Barb & Arab horses, quickly spread across southern Europe deep into France where they were finally defeated by Charles Martel at the battle of Poitiers in 732 then gradually forced back south of the Pyrenees. The lighter Barb & Arab lines were mixed with the heavier Iberian stock to breed the Pure Spanish or Andalusian horse. ~ 800 years of intermittent warfare followed until 1492 when the Spaniards finally captured the last Moorish stronghold of Granada. Cavalry played a vital role in these battles of the “Reconquista”. By the end of the 15th century the Andalusian breed was well established & sought after by the aristocracy. These powerful, athletic, & elegant animals were a potent war machine¹⁴, providing the beginning to one of the *largest conquest-based equestrian militaries* in the world to the Spanish. Following the “discovery” of the Americas in 1492, Spain, *with allegiance to the Catholic empire*, turned to conquering the Caribbean, South America, & Mexico before eventually turn north to what is now the U.S..¹⁵



The Met Museum: oil painting by Sebastiano del Piombo (Sebastiano Luciani), 1519:

www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/437645

Following the conquests of Genghis Khan (1206–1227) over Asia, the Mongol Empire's peaceful hegemony provided Europeans a safe land passage to the Indies & China along the “Silk Road”, providing valuable goods such as spices & silk. With the fall of Constantinople to the Ottoman Turks in 1453, the land route to Asia became very dangerous. Portuguese navigators thus sought a passage by sea to get Asia.

In 1470, Florentine astronomer Paolo dal Pozzo Toscanelli suggested to King Afonso V of Portugal that sailing *west* would be a *quicker* to reach the Spice Islands, Cathay, & Cipangu, rather than going all the way around Africa, but Afonso rejected his proposals.¹⁶ In the 1480s, *the Columbus brothers* picked up Toscanelli's suggestion, & proposed a plan to reach the Indies by sailing *west*. Though denied by leaders at first, Columbus persisted in his research, scheduling subsequent proposals. Catholic Monarchs were eager to obtain a competitive edge over other European countries in acquiring a new trade with the Indies, & Columbus's project, though far-fetched, held the promise of such an advantage.

14 Equitours, "History of Horseback Riging in Spain; The Spanish Horse", posted 3-10-2014:

www.equitours.com/views-from-the-saddle/article/history-horseback-riding-spain/

15 The Gilder Lehrman Institute; Institute of American History, “The Impact of Horse Culture” by Elliott West”: www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/early-settlements/essays/impact-horse-culture

16 Charles R. Boxer (1951). *The Christian Century in Japan: 1549–1650*. University of California Press. p. 2.

Chapter 2: Midwest Tribes' First Contact w/ French & Spanish, Introduction to Horses & Guns

In the April 1492, King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella promised Columbus that if he succeeded in discovering “a western route to India”, he'd be given the rank of *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, & then be appointed *Viceroy & Governor of all the new lands* if he could claim the victorious route for Spain.

August 3rd, 1492, Columbus departed from Palos de la Frontera with three ships: the *Santa María ex-Gallega* ("Galician"), the *Pinta*, & the *Santa Clara*, nicknamed the *Niña*.¹⁷ Though Columbus was wrong about the number of degrees of longitude that separated Europe from the Far East and about the distance that each degree represented, he did possess valuable knowledge about the trade winds, which proved to be the key to his successful navigation of the Atlantic. During his first voyage in 1492, the brisk trade winds from the east, commonly called "easterlies", propelled him from the *Canary Islands* to *The Bahamas*.¹⁸ On October 12th, land was spotted,¹⁹ & Columbus called the island *San Salvador*: the natives called it *Guanahani*.²⁰

The indigenous people he encountered, the Lucayan, Taíno, or Arawak, were peaceful & friendly. Noting their gold ear ornaments, Columbus took some of the Arawaks prisoner, & insisted they guide him to the source of the gold.²¹

In his journal on Oct. 12th, 1492, he wrote: **"Many of the men I have seen have scars on their bodies, & when I made signs to them to find out how this happened, they indicated that people from other nearby islands come to San Salvador to capture them; they defend themselves the best they can. I believe that people from the mainland come here to take them as slaves. They ought to make good & skilled servants, for they repeat very quickly whatever we say to them. I think they can very easily be made Christians, for they seem to have no religion. If it pleases our Lord, I will take six of them to Your Highnesses when I depart, in order that they may learn our language."**²² Columbus remarked that their lack of modern weaponry & metal-forged swords or pikes was a tactical vulnerability, writing, **"I could conquer the whole of them with 50 men, & govern them as I pleased."**²³ Columbus & his team then traversed several islands, capturing people as slaves at nearly each stop before returning to Spain on March 15th, 1493, at which time word of his *finding of new lands* spread rapidly throughout Europe.



Source (artist uncited): “Madiera Boat Tours”: www.madeira-tours.info/madeira-island-tours/boat-tours/

17 **"THE ORIGINAL NIÑA".** *The Niña & Pinta*. British Virgin Islands: The Columbus Foundation

18 Murphy, Patrick J.; Coye, Ray W. (2013). *Mutiny and Its Bounty: Leadership Lessons from the Age of Discovery*. Yale University Press. ISBN 9780300170283.

19 Morison (1942, p. 226); Lopez, (1990, p. 14); Columbus & Toscanelli (2010, p. 35)

20 William D. Phillips Jr., 'Columbus, Christopher', in David Buisseret (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to World Exploration*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, online edition 2012).

21 Zinn, Howard (2003). *A People's History of the United States*. New York: HarperCollins. pp. 1–22. ISBN 0-06-052837-0

22 Robert H. Fuson, ed., *The Log of Christopher Columbus*, Tab Books, 1992, International Marine Publishing, ISBN 0-87742-316-4.

23 Columbus (1991, p. 87) (Columbus & Toscanelli, 2010, p. 41)

Rodrigo Borgia (Pope Alexander VI) & *The Doctrine of Discovery*



From Saint Tarcissus Parish

Following the death of Pope Innocent VIII on July 25th, 1492 A.D., a meeting wherein Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia threatened to unleash *an embarrassing speech* regarding “certain indiscretions” about *an opposing prelate* who sought to ascend to the Papacy. *was held*. Borgia did so because he sought to secure votes for *himself* to become Pope, of which *he did* on August 11th, thus changing his name to Alexander VI.

He described *lawlessness* at the time as being an epidemic which needed to be addressed immediately, thus ordering investigations to be made against anyone suspected of inciting mayhem and/or destruction, decreeing that if these troublemakers were found guilty, they were to be hung on the spot, & their homes razed to the ground. Furthermore, he divided the city

into four districts, assigning magistrates (lower court judges who handle lesser offenses) with *absolute* powers to enforce & maintain civil order. It soon became apparent as to his nefarious nature.

“You must know that for those destined to dominate others, the ordinary rules of life are turned upside down & duty acquires an entirely new meaning.”

*~Rodrigo Borgia, acting as Pope Alexander VI*²⁴

On May 4, 1493, he issued a Papal Bull called “Inter Caetera”, better known as The Doctrine of Discovery, which played *a central role* in the Spanish conquest of the Americas. The doctrine supported Spain’s strategy to secure exclusive rights to the lands discovered by Columbus the previous year, effectively giving Spain a monopoly on the lands in the “New World”.

The Bull stated that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be **“discovered”**, and that **“the Catholic faith & the Christian religion be exalted & be everywhere increased & spread, that the health of souls be cared for & that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself.”**

²⁴ Saint Tarcissus Parish, “ALEXANDER VI: PORTRAIT OF PAPAL INFAMY” by MICHAEL WOJCIECHOWSKI of “The Faithful Wellspring”: <http://sttars.org/blog/alexander-vi-portrait-of-papal-infamy/>

Excerpts from “The Doctrine of Discovery”:

...“Catholic kings & princes, after earnest consideration of all matters, especially of the rise & spread of the Catholic faith, as was the fashion of your ancestors, kings of renowned memory, you have purposed with the favor of divine clemency to bring under your sway the said mainlands & islands with their residents & inhabitants... to bring them to the Catholic faith. This your holy & praiseworthy purpose... that the name of our Savior be carried into those regions... by your reception of holy baptism... you are bound to our apostolic commands... your duty, to lead the peoples dwelling in those islands & countries to embrace the Christian religion; nor at any time let dangers or hardships deter you therefrom... together with all their dominions, cities, camps, places, & villages, & all rights, jurisdictions, & appurtenances, all islands & mainlands found & to be found, discovered... be in the actual possession of any Christian king or prince... we make, appoint, & depute you (“deputize”) & your said heirs & successors *lords of them* with full &

free power, authority, & jurisdiction of every kind... we command you... you should appoint... worthy, God-fearing, learned, skilled, & experienced men, in order to instruct the... inhabitants & residents in the Catholic faith & train them in good morals. Furthermore, under penalty of excommunication... should anyone thus contravene, we strictly forbid all persons of whatsoever rank, even imperial & royal, or of whatsoever estate, degree, order, or condition, to dare without your special permit or that of your... heirs & successors, to go for the purpose of trade or any other reason... apostolic constitutions & ordinances & other decrees whatsoever to the contrary notwithstanding. We trust in Him from whom empires & governments & all good things proceed, that... you, with the Lord’s guidance, pursue this holy & praiseworthy undertaking... while your hardships & endeavors will attain the most felicitous result, to the happiness & glory of all Christendom.”²⁵



Plaque outside the Archbishop's Palace, Valencia.

25 The Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History, “The Doctrine of Discovery, 1493”:
<https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/imperial-rivalries/resources/doctrine-discovery-1493>

The Precursor To The Doctrine of Discovery; *The Romanus Pontifex*

To understand the Catholic Empire's principle of "discovery", we need to *begin* by examining a papal document issued forty years *prior* to Columbus' historic voyage. In 1452, Pope Nicholas V issued to King Alfonso V of Portugal the Papal Bull *Romanus Pontifex*, which declared *war* against all non-Christians throughout the world, *specifically* the sanctioning & promotion of the conquest, colonization, & exploitation of non-Christian nations & their territories.

Under various doctrines formulated during & after the Crusades, non-Christians were considered enemies of the Catholic faith. Accordingly, Pope Nicholas directed King Alfonso to "**capture, vanquish, & subdue the Saracens (Muslims), pagans, and other enemies of Christ**" to "**put them into perpetual slavery**" & "**to take all their possessions & property**".²⁶ Acting on this, Portugal continued to traffic in African slaves, & to expand its royal dominions by making "discoveries" along the western coast of Africa, claiming them as Portuguese territory.

Thus, when Columbus sailed west, with express understanding that he was authorized to "take possession" of any lands he "discovered" that were "not under the dominion of any Christian rulers", he & the Spanish sovereigns were following an already well-established tradition of "discovery" & conquest.²⁷

In the *Inter Cetera* document, Pope Alexander stated his desire that the "discovered" people be "subjugated & brought to the faith itself."²⁸

Within Columbus' journey to the Americas, it is important to recognize that the grim acts of genocide & conquest committed by he & his men against the peaceful Native people of the Caribbean were sanctioned by the aforementioned documents of the Catholic Church. Indeed, these papal documents were frequently used by European conquerors acting under the *guise* of Christianity while *simultaneously* violating the very principles purported to be set forth by Jesus from within the New Testament. They used the religion in order to justify *mandating* an incredibly brutal system of colonization which *completely dehumanized* indigenous people.²⁹

26 Davenport, Frances Gardiner, 1917, *European Treaties bearing on the History of the United States and its Dependencies to 1648*, Vol. 1, Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington, p. 20-26

27 Thacher, John Boyd, 1903, *Christopher Columbus* Vol. 11, New York: G.P. Putman's Sons, p. 96

28 *European Treaties bearing on the History of the United States and its Dependencies to 1648*, p. 61

29 Story, Joseph, 1833, *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States* Vol. 1 Boston: Little, Brown & Co., p. 135-136

Excerpts from *The Romanus Pontifex*:

“The Roman pontiff, successor of the key-bearer of the heavenly kingdom & vicar (“deputy” or “bishop”) of Jesus Christ... ordains... those things which he sees will be agreeable to the Divine Majesty & by which he may bring the sheep entrusted to him by God into the single divine fold... & obtain pardon for their souls... we bestow suitable favors & special graces on those Catholic kings & princes... who restrain the savage excesses of the... infidels, enemies of the Christian name... sparing no labor & expense.



Alchetron: <http://alchetron.com/Pope-Nicholas-V-1055397-W>

But since... with loss of so many natives of their said kingdoms, very many of whom have perished in those expeditions, depending only upon the aid of those natives, have caused those provinces to be explored & have acquired & possessed such harbors, islands, & seas, as aforesaid, as the true lords of them... to invade, search out, capture, vanquish, & subdue all Saracens (*Muslims*) & pagans (*non-Abrahamic religions*) whatsoever, & other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed, & the kingdoms, dukedoms, principalities, dominions, possessions, & all movable & immovable goods whatsoever held & possessed by them & to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery, & to apply & appropriate to himself & his successors the kingdoms, dukedoms, counties, principalities, dominions, possessions, & goods, & to convert them to his & their use & profit... in the more distant & remote parts, can be acquired from the hands of infidels or pagans... that the right of conquest which in the course of these letters we declare to be extended... forever of right belongs & pertains, to the said King Alfonso, his successors, & the infante, & not to any others... may found & [cause to be] founded & built any churches, monasteries, or other pious places whatsoever; & also may send over to them any ecclesiastical persons whatsoever, as volunteers... & that those persons may abide there as long as they shall live, & hear confessions of all who live in the said parts or who come thither...

And we decree that whosoever shall infringe these orders [shall incur the following penalties], besides the punishments pronounced by law... they shall incur the sentence of excommunication... & we decree that they shall also cause them to be denounced by others, & to be strictly avoided by all.”³⁰

30 **The Bull Romanus Pontifex (Nicholas V), January 8, 1455, English Translation:**
<http://www.nativeweb.org/pages/legal/indig-romanus-pontifex.html>



Portrait by José Cisneros
“Conquistador de Mexico” – c.
1526, from University of Texas
at El Paso:
<http://admin.utep.edu/default.aspx?tabid=62712>

The Legacy of Don Hernán Cortés (1485–1547):

While wandering through Spain's southern ports of Cadiz, Palos, Sanlucar, & Seville, listening to tales of conquest, gold, Indians, & strange unknown lands, *18 year old* Cortés finally left for Hispaniola in 1504 in a ship commanded by Alonso Quintero, who tried to deceive his superiors & reach the New World before them to secure personal advantages. The history of the conquistadores is rife with such accounts of rivalry, jockeying for positions, mutiny, & betrayal.³¹ After being appointed *notary* of the town of Azua de Compostela in 1506, Cortés took part in the conquest of Hispaniola and Cuba, receiving a large estate of land & Indian slaves for his efforts from the leader of the expedition.

At the age of 26, Cortés was made clerk to the treasurer with the responsibility of ensuring that the Crown received the *quinto*, or customary one fifth of the profits from the expedition.

The Governor of Cuba, Diego Velázquez, was so impressed with Cortés that he secured a high political position for him, *secretary* for Governor Velázquez. Cortés was twice appointed municipal magistrate, & in Cuba, Cortés was given an *encomienda* (*a system which rewards conquerors with slave labor*) to provide Indian labor for his mines & cattle. This new position of power also made him the new source of leadership, which opposing forces in the colony could then turn to. In 1514, Cortés led a group which demanded *more Indians* be assigned to the settlers.

As time went on, relations between Cortés & Governor Velázquez became strained. This began once news of Juan de Grijalva, establishing a colony on the mainland where there was a bonanza of silver & gold, reached Velázquez; it was decided to send him help. Cortés was appointed Captain-General of this new expedition in October 1518, but was advised to move fast before Velázquez changed his mind.³²

With Cortés's experience as an administrator, knowledge gained from many failed expeditions, & his impeccable rhetoric he was able to gather six ships & 300 men *within a month*. Predictably, Velázquez's jealousy exploded, & he decided to place the leadership of the expedition in other hands. However, Cortés quickly gathered more men & ships in other Cuban

31 Crow, John A. *The Epic of Latin America*. Los Angeles, California: University of California Press, 1992. 4th ed. p.73

32 Hassig, Ross. *Mexico and the Spanish Conquest*. Longman Group UK Limited, 1994, pp. 45–46

ports. Now, after almost 15 years in the Indies, Cortés began to look beyond his substantial status as mayor of the capital of Cuba. He missed the first two expeditions, but in 1518, Velázquez put Cortés in command of an expedition to explore & secure the interior of Mexico for colonization. At the last minute, due to the old argument between the two, Velázquez changed his mind & revoked Cortés's charter, but he ignored the orders &, in an act of open mutiny, *went anyway* in February 1519. He stopped in Trinidad, Cuba, to hire more soldiers & obtain more horses. Accompanied by about 11 ships, 500 men, 13 horses, & a small number of cannon, Cortés landed on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mayan territory.³³ In 1519, he formally claimed the land for the Spanish crown, & began to conquer people, & convert them to Catholicism.³⁴

"The *Conquest of Mexico* paintings" (several of them shown) are significant both artistically *and* historically. Painted in the second half of the seventeenth century (oil on canvas), they detail *the 1521 Spanish conquest of the native Aztec people*. They may be found in the Jay I. Kislak Collection within the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, Library of Congress, here: http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/exploring-the-early-americas/ExplorationsandEncounters/conquestpaintings/Assets/object91_t_725.Jpeg

"The Meeting of Cortés and Moctezuma"

Moctezuma, leader of the Aztec empire, & Spanish *conquistador* Hernán Cortés meet for the first time outside the city on the shores of Lake Texcoco:



(092.00.00)

33 Bernard Grunberg, "*La folle aventure d'Hernan Cortés*", in *L'Histoire* n°322, July–August 2007

34 Crowe, John A. *The Epic of Latin America*. Los Angeles, California: University of California Press, 1992. 4th ed. p.75

"Arrival of Cortés in Vera Cruz"

Upon receiving word of Cortés's arrival on the coast, Moctezuma, the leader of the Aztec empire, sends his ambassadors to meet the Spanish explorers. Cortés orders a show of military strength to impress the ambassadors:



(091.00.00)

"Death of Moctezuma"

Moctezuma, who was taken hostage by Cortés, appears in public on the upper level of the palace in an attempt to ease the hostility of his people.



(093.00.00)

"The Sad Night"

After the death of Moctezuma, Cortés & his forces leave Tenochtitlán. The Mexica spot them & fiercely attack the Spanish and their allies.



(094.00.00)

"The Capture of Tenochtitlán"

Cortés leads his Spanish armies on horseback across one of the causeways & lays siege to Tenochtitlán. He orders the complete destruction of the city.³⁵



(096.00.00)

³⁵ Library of Congress, "Exploring the Early Americas, *Conquest of Mexico*

Paintings": <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/exploring-the-early-americas/conquest-of-mexico-paintings.html>

After conquering, enslaving, & desecrating the cities & traditional sites of *many* indigenous tribes of South America, *from there* conquistadors led columns of horsemen *northward* into present-day Arizona & New Mexico.

The Spanish Empire's Conquest of The Pueblo Tribes, & Its Coming Effect On The Great Plains Tribes:

When the first Spanish explorers discovered the Pueblo Indians of present-day New Mexico, they found thriving tribes with rich cultures. The Pueblo people had come a long way from their hunting & gathering ancestors. They had learned the art of *agriculture* from indigenous peoples of Mexico *centuries before*, thus planting *much* of their own food. Hunting had also become an easier task with the introduction of the bow and arrow by the *prehistoric* Mogollon tribe centuries prior.

The Pueblo people made their homes from mud, forming it into *any shape*, building both one *and* two-story structures. They lived in small, tight-knit communities, sharing culture & *sometimes* language, but each pueblo remained independent. Because of their way of life, the Spanish named them "Pueblo," the *Spanish* word for "town". *The oldest continuously occupied village in North America is "Sky City" (just west of modern-day Albuquerque, New Mexico), built upon a 367-foot sandstone bluff, & first built around 1150 A.D.:*



*Source: "17 of the Oldest Man-Made Structures On Earth Still In Use" by Attila Nagy:
<http://gizmodo.com/17-of-the-oldest-man-made-structures-on-earth-still-in-508293601>*

At right: A Depiction of Coronado's Expedition, by Frederic Remington:

Upon the return of Fray Marcos de Niza, & his reports of cities of *vast wealth* to the north, in January 1540 Francisco Vázquez de "Coronado" was appointed *leader* of a major expedition to conquer the area *north* of "New Spain" (*which is today modern day "Mexico"*). Coronado quickly amassed soldiers & supplies, funded largely by Viceroy Mendoza and Coronado's wife (*Beatriz de Estrada*)- as well as several others- all hoping for a return of jewels & precious metal. *By February*, a thousand men, and *hundreds* of horses, mules, cattle, sheep gathered at Compostela, *west of Mexico City near the Pacific Coast*, in preparation for the journey. The party included approximately 240 soldiers *on horseback*, 60 *foot soldiers*, & about 800 African and indigenous slaves.



Spanish Francisco Vázquez de Coronado Expedition (1540 - 1542), passing through Colonial New Mexico, to the Great Plains:

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marcos-de-Niza>

Fray de Niza traveled as the *guide*. Two ships, *commanded by Hernando de Alarcón*, would carry the bulk of supplies up the Guadalupe River. *At last*, the party reached the "Cibola" (*cities of vast wealth*) described by Fray. However, the adobe village was *not* city of gold. Upon approaching the site, Coronado *knew* that this settlement would *not* yield the wealth he was *told* was there. *However*, he decided to conquer the Zuni pueblo *anyway*, & *did so* in 1540. Fray de Niza was ejected from the expedition for his gross exaggeration of the area's wealth; he returned south in disgrace.³⁶

At Right: Current locations of Zuni Pueblo, & other tribes of the New Mexico region:



Map of reservations from "Southwest Indian Relief Council":

http://www.nrcprograms.org/site/PageServer?pagename=swirc_res_nm_zuni

³⁶ **The Arizona Experience, "The Coronado Expedition":** <http://arizonaexperience.org/remember/coronado-expedition>

Spanish Conquistadors Move North

After being named *second in command* under Francisco Pizarro during the conquest of the Incan Empire (modern day Peru), in 1532, another conquistador (conqueror) named Hernando de Soto returned to Spain in 1536 with an enormous share of treasure from the Inca Empire. He was then admitted into the Catholic-owned Order of Santiago and "granted the authority to conquer Florida".³⁷ Upon landing in 1539, de Soto and more than 700 Spaniards immediately began taking over native villages to use as camps. De Soto & the Spaniards proceeded to take advantage of the tribal people & selfishly squander their resources.³⁸ Soon they would come to capture Chief Tuskaloosa of the Mississippi tribe at his home village. Tuskaloosa advised the expedition to travel to a town known as Mabila (present day central Alabama), where supplies would be waiting for them. Upon arrival, the Spaniards knew something was amiss. The town of Mabila, as described by Garcilaso de la Vega as follows:

"...on a very fine plain (with) an enclosure three estados (about 16.5 feet or 5-m) high, which was made of logs as thick as oxen. They were driven into the ground so close together that they touched one another. Other beams, longer & not so thick, were placed crosswise on the outside and inside and attached with split canes & strong cords. On top they were daubed with a great deal of mud packed down with long straw, which mixture filled all the cracks & open spaces between the logs and their fastenings in such manner that it really looked like a wall finished with a mason's trowel. At intervals of fifty paces around this enclosure, were towers capable of holding seven or eight men who could fight in them. The lower part of the enclosure, to 'the height of an estado' (5.55 feet), was full of loopholes for shooting arrows at those on the outside. The pueblo (town, not tribe) had only two gates, one on the east & the other on the west. In the middle of the pueblo, was a spacious plaza around which were the largest and most important houses."³⁹

The population of the town was almost exclusively male- young warriors and men of status. There were several women, but no children. Also around the fortress, all trees, bushes, & even weeds had been cleared from outside the settlement for the length of a crossbow shot. Outside the palisade, in the field, an older warrior had been seen haranguing (military-style training, as a commanding officer would do) younger warriors, & leading them in mock skirmishes & military exercises.⁴⁰ The town of Mabila was a Trojan-horse, a fake village concealing over 2500 native warriors who knew of the conquistadors, & they were in waiting. There, Chief Tuskaloosa asked de Soto to allow him to remain there. When de Soto refused,

37 Leon, P., 1998, *The Discovery and Conquest of Peru, Chronicles of the New World Encounter*, edited and translated by Cook and Cook, Durham: Duke University Press, ISBN 9780822321460

38 *The Chickasaw Nation, "First Encounter"*: <https://www.chickasaw.net/Our-Nation/Heritage/Heritage-Series/First-Encounter.aspx>

39 Sylvia Flowers, "DeSoto's Expedition", U.S. National Park Service, 2007, webpage: NPS-DeSoto: <https://www.nps.gov/archive/ocmu/DeSoto.htm>

40 Charles Hudson (September 1998). *Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun: Hernando de Soto and the South's Ancient Chiefdoms*. University of Georgia Press. pp. 234–238. ISBN 978-0-8203-2062-5. Retrieved March 3, 2012.

Tuskaloosa warned him to leave the town, then withdrew to another room, & refused to talk further. A lesser chief was asked to intercede (*intervene*), but he would not. One of the Spaniards, according to Elvas, "(then) **seized him by the cloak of marten-skins that he had on, drew it off over his head, and left it in his hands; whereupon, the Indians all beginning to rise, he gave him a stroke with a cutlass, that laid open his back, when they, with loud yells, came out of the houses, discharging their bows.**"

The Spaniards *barely escaped* the well-fortified town. The tribe *closed the gates, and (Elvas continues) "beating their drums, they raised flags, with great shouting... fought (and) drove our people back out of the town,"* then, de Soto & his people began "... **breaking in upon the Indians and beating them down,** (at which time, the natives) **fled out of the place, the cavalry & infantry driving them back (into) the gates, where, losing the hope of escape, they fought valiantly; and the Christians getting among them with cutlasses, they found themselves met on all sides by their strokes, when many, dashing headlong into the flaming houses, were smothered, and, heaped one upon another, burned to death.**" The greatest loss of soldiers *by the Spaniards* occurred during the battle at Mabila., *as recorded: "They who perished there* (Native Americans who were burned to death) **were in all two thousand five hundred- a few more or less: of the Christians there fell- two hundred... Of the living, one hundred and fifty Christians had received seven hundred wounds...**"⁴¹ This tragic event took place in 1540. *From there, in the following spring, de Soto's expedition would head north & closer to The Great Plains- & into traditional Chickasaw territory:*



Source: "Forgotten Realm of the Chickasaw, pt. 1", Posted by Richard Thornton: <https://peopleofonefire.com/the-forgotten-realm-of-the-chickasaw-part-one.html>

41 Sylvia Flowers, "DeSoto's Expedition", U.S. National Park Service, 2007, webpage: NPS-DeSoto: <https://www.nps.gov/archive/ocmu/DeSoto.htm>

Hernando de Soto:



Hernando de Soto, Library of Congress:

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/91796551/>

1540: "The Winter of Discontent":

In December of 1540, de Soto's band of conquistador's arrived in Chickasaw territory, & a reluctant relationship was formed between the two groups. However, *as his reputation would suggest*, de Soto began to assume unjustified authority over the Chickasaw which began to disrupt their way of life.

Soon, he began making harsh demands of the tribal leaders, & the Chickasaw began planning an *ambush* to oust their increasingly unwelcome visitors, an ambush that would come to *disrupt* his plans, & ultimately *put an end* to his expedition in America.⁴²

Just before sunrise, March 4, 1541, about three hundred Chickasaw warriors, *divided into many small groups*, crept *silently* through the savannahs to encircle & infiltrate the sleeping Spanish encampment- which until ten weeks before had been a Chickasaw village. They were about to execute the attack that had been planned throughout winter, as warriors

had been paying what had *appeared* to be *social visits* to the Spanish, but were *actually* reconnaissance missions, in which they noted *everything about camp* that could enhance their opportunity for a successful attack.



William H. Powell portrays Discovery of the Mississippi in this painting from 1847. Image courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol, Washington, D.C.

⁴² **The Chickasaw Nation, "First Encounter":** <https://www.chickasaw.net/Our-Nation/Heritage/Heritage-Series/First-Encounter.aspx>

At Right: Sculpture of a Chickasaw Warrior by Enoch Kelly Haney, Bacone College campus, Muskogee, Oklahoma:

At that time there were an estimated *four hundred fifty to five hundred men* and *two women* operating under de Soto. Although he believed in the moral righteousness of abusing & killing non-Christians, he knew or suspected that despite their overtures of friendliness, the native people *deeply resented* his presence, & he sensed they were "engaged in evil intrigue." Before he had retired on the evening of March 3, De Soto told his men: **"Tonight is an Indian night. I will sleep armed & with my horse saddled."**

The Spaniards lost about 40 men, & *the remainder of their limited equipment*. According to participating chroniclers, the expedition *could have* been destroyed at this point, but the Chickasaw let them go. *Their village was utterly destroyed*. The Spanish salvaged what little they could from the ashes of their camp, & de Soto ordered a move *two or three miles away* to another abandoned Chickasaw village on an open plain. There they tended to the wounded, & to rejuvenating themselves into a semblance of *an expedition*. Again, the chroniclers noted that *had the Chickasaw attacked at this time, not a man would have survived*. But, in keeping with the overall Chickasaw strategy of minimizing their own losses, they *probably* believed that the Spanish had been critically crippled & would have no choice but to *move on*. But- *when they did not-* the Chickasaw attacked *again* on March 15, again *just before dawn*. This attack was not nearly as sophisticated as the first one. For one thing, De Soto's sentries, soldiers, & cavalymen were ready, & during the battle there were deaths & casualties on both sides.⁴³ For another, the Chickasaw probably had a very limited objective: *to demonstrate emphatically* to de Soto that he must *leave their land*. Within days, the do Soto's expedition *moved out for good, forever weakened and demoralized*, according to Elvas. Now, instead of searching for gold and riches, *they were trying to find a water route to the Gulf of Mexico and their best chance of escape*. De Soto would not make it back, *however*; he died of some infectious disease near the banks of the Mississippi River in May 1542.⁴⁴



Source: From Design Matters, "The Client":
<https://fsb-ae-blog.com/2012/01/23/the-client/>

⁴³ Narratives of the career of Hernando De Soto in the Conquest of Florida, told by a Knight of Elvas and in a relation by Luys Hernandez de Biedma, factor of the Expedition, Edward G. Bourne, editor, based on the diary of Rodrigo Ranjel, De Soto's private secretary, (New York: Allerton Book Co., 1922), 133.

⁴⁴ Mary Ann Wells, Native Land, (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi), 1994, page 23 *and* David Duncan, Hernando De Soto, A Savage Quest in the Americas, (New York: Crown Publishers, 1995), page 400.

1595: *Back in New Mexico, The Conquest of The Pueblo Expands:*

In 1595, conquistador Don Juan de Oñate was granted permission from (*Roman Catholic*) King Philip II to colonize Santa Fé de Nuevo México, *present-day New Mexico*.



Texas Historical Marker for Don Juan De Onate and El Paso Del Rio Norte:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Texas_Historical_Marker_for_Don_Juan_De_Onate_and_El_Paso_Del_Rio_Norte.jpg

Relations between the Spanish *and* the Acoma people had been mostly peaceful for several decades after the two groups first came into contact around 1540. However, in 1598, the Acoma leader, *Zutacapan*, learned that the Spanish intended to *conquer* them. *Initially*, the natives planned to defend themselves; however, their belief that the Spanish were immortal *and* their knowledge of Spanish atrocities committed in the past led them to try to negotiate a *peaceful* solution to the conflict.

Accordingly, Don Oñate sent his nephew, Captain Juan de Zaldívar, to the pueblo to consult with Zutacapan. When Zaldívar arrived on December 4, 1598, one of the first things he did was to take sixteen of his men up the mesa on which the pueblo were located to demand food from them.⁴⁵ Even though the tribe chose to receive Oñate's expedition in friendship. Historian Robert Silverberg says, *even so*, Juan de Oñate "claimed himself the master of domain" of Pueblo tribes "*all the way to El Paso*".

On January 22, 1599, after the Acoma Pueblo revolted, killing 12 of their Spaniard overlords, the Spanish rulers retaliated by killing more than 800 Acoma civilians. To further subdue them, Oñate ordered a foot cut off every Pueblo male 25 years & over. Males between the ages of 12 & 25 were sentenced to 20 years of hard labor.

⁴⁵ Knaut, Andrew. *The Pueblo Revolt of 1680*. Oklahoma: The University of Oklahoma Press: Norman, 1995, p. 69.

Spanish colonizers, mostly concentrated in Grande the Rio Grande valley of New Mexico, *knew* their horses were the *key* to their control, & so they kept them, quite literally, on a tight rein. Only in 1680, when Pueblo natives collectively *rose up* & overwhelmed their Spanish overlords & drove them *out* of northern New Mexico for a dozen years (“Pueblo Revolt of 1680”), did the indigenous people of North America gain access to the Spanish herds. *Once they did*, horses & the Native American horse culture expanded at a breathtaking pace.



Photo © Goran Bogicevic/123rf.:

<http://moon.com/2015/09/visiting-taos-pueblo-in-new-mexico/>

Don Juan de Oñate:



Source: “Legends of America, Native American Legends: Pueblo Revolt - Rising Up Against the Spaniards”, artist uncited:

<http://www.legendsofamerica.com/na-pueblor revolt.html>

Left: A crumbling church bell tower & wooden crosses mark the site of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, Taos, New Mexico.

1700-1780: Spanish Horses Spread Throughout N. American Tribes:

Spanish horses then became traded & stolen from one tribe to another. By 1700 the tribes of the Great Basin, such as the Comanche, had them, & thirty years later those of the northern *Rocky Mountains*.

By around 1780, *a mere century after it had begun*, the spread of the horse culture across the West was complete, & peoples from the Columbia River basin to the *Great Plains* were having their lives *drastically* reshaped. Once the people acquired the *Spanish horse*, in the mid 1700s, there was an impact on the material culture as well as the social customs of the people: *tipis became larger*, there was greater mobility, & hunting became more productive. Additionally, the horse had a *direct impact* on the integration of the warfare into the fabric of the people's lives. It is important to understand the main object of Great Plains tribal warfare was never to acquire land *or* to

Map of the *Great Basin*:



Author "Kmusser": Elevation data from SRTM, all other features from the National Atlas. **Rand McNally, The New International Atlas, 1993** used as reference: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Greatbasinmap.png

control another group of people; instead if focused on raiding other tribes' camps for horses, & acquiring *honors* connected with capturing horses. In these raids, *very much like contests*, men sought to out-smart the enemy & gain individual honors by "counting coup", *or striking the enemy with the hand or with a special staff or wand*. Plains warfare emphasized *out-smarting* the enemy, *not killing them*. With the advent of the horse onto the Plains, warfare traditions became institutionalized among tribes.⁴⁶

Over time, *however*, horses contributed *also* to native peoples' mounting difficulties as the tide of white settlement rolled over them. The horse enabled tribal people to hunt *far more effectively* in many parts of the West, *especially among the vast herds of bison on the Great Plains*. Those bison were hunted for not only

46 Morison, Samuel (1974). *The European Discovery of America: The Southern Voyages, 1492–1616*. New York: Oxford University Press.

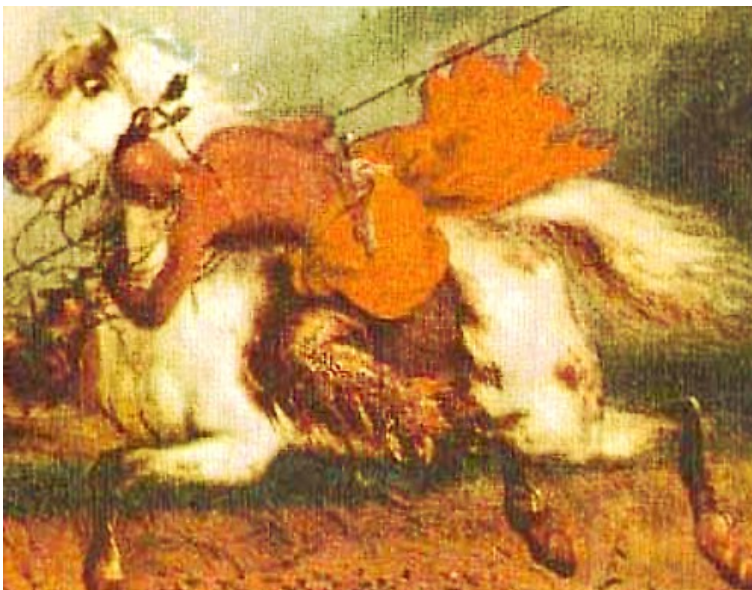
meat, but also their *hides*, which women processed into robes to feed a hungry market in the east *and* throughout Europe. Horses thus expanded Native trade & brought a flow of new items into their lives— a trade invigorated also because they could travel *much* farther & faster than before.

Horseback native people flexed their new power, & put it into play in the world around them. One result was a boom in population on western grasslands. Nearly all tribes that Europeans encountered on the Great Plains— *Comanche, Lakota, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Crow, Blackfeet, & others*—migrated there during the era of horses, drawn by the new access to energy & power.

Some groups took fuller advantage than others, which resulted in a dramatic shifting of power across the West. With thousands of forbidding horseback warriors, Comanches created the largest empire in North American history, *stretching from the central Great Plains deep into Mexico*. Their fighting abilities on horseback soon earned them fearful respect throughout the southwest. In one of their earliest raids they stole a herd of over fifteen hundred. Their herds swelled to tens then hundreds of thousands. Soon no respectable chief would have less than a few thousand horses, & it wasn't *that uncommon* for any warrior to own over a thousand.

In battle, a Comanche warrior used his mount like a shield. Imagine the sight of a Comanche speeding toward its enemy, shooting arrows from beneath their horse's neck & having nothing but a leg hooked over the backbone of his mount, using the horse's head as a shield! The key to performing this heart-stopping ability started in those daily drills as a boy. The warrior would use a loop of rope braided into his horse's mane. He would then slip the loop over his head & under his outside arm, affording him the freedom to cling to the side of his horse & have both hands free for shooting or picking up heavy objects while also riding at incredible speed.

Right: Painting by Alfred Jacob Miller, "a Sioux warrior demonstrating Comanche riding technique".



Source: <http://www.forttours.com/pages/comanchenation.asp>

The Lakota & Cheyenne dominated the northern Plains, & warred with the Blackfeet, Crows, & others over neighboring regions. On the Columbia Plateau, the Nez Perce used their huge horse herds to range over hundreds of miles, & to funnel trade from the Pacific coast to today's North Dakota. For every winner, of course, *there were losers*. Village-dwelling groups like the Pawnees & Mandans on the Missouri River, & *the Pueblos on the Rio Grande*, suffered terrible raids from mounted enemies.

There were costs even for the winners. The quickening warfare over control of prime territories took an *awful toll* among warriors. By one census Cheyenne women outnumbered men *three-to-two*. The enormous herds needed to sustain a horse culture, *numbering several animals for every man, woman, & child*, soon had an alarmingly corrosive impact on streamside ecologies ("*riparian zones*") where many native people had to spend their winters, leaving *fewer & fewer sanctuaries* during those desperate, storm-wracked months. Although other factors *were involved*, the prodigious hunting by horseback contributed to a dramatic decline in the number of bison, the animal *essential* for survival— *especially* on the Plains.

For all the calamities that came in the long run, European contact *at first* offered American Indian peoples many opportunities & advantages: Old World technologies provided *a range of trade goods* that brought vast improvements to everyday life: iron pots lasted virtually *forever*— compared to a fish hook *whittled from bone*, a *metal hook* seemed a miracle.

The enhanced connections to the wider world brought more than abundant goods. It likely was no coincidence that the first time smallpox swept across the West was in 1780, when the horse culture was in place & the virus could spread from people to people, *from New Mexico to Puget Sound*, during its short window of contagion. Even the vigorous flow of new goods had its downside. Native peoples' growing reliance on metal goods, firearms, & other items they could not make for themselves left them increasingly vulnerable to the outsiders who supplied them, & more dependent upon trade & commerce to *survive*.

The far graver vulnerability was the partnership with the horse itself. The West, birthplace of the horse, in the end was the last place where the horse culture rose & flourished. Its reign was brief. After barely a century the westward roll of white society, with its irresistible numbers & its revolutionary technologies, including that of the railroad, undercut & overwhelmed the way of life that had brought unprecedented power, affluence, & glory to dozens of Indian peoples of the American West.⁴⁷

47 **Official Portal for North Dakota State Government, *The History & Culture of The Standing Rock***
Oyate: <http://www.ndstudies.org/resources/IndianStudies/standingrock/migration.html>

The Plains Tribes in the late 1700s, Now with Horses and Guns:



Painting of "Crazy Horse" by Dan Nance: www.dannance.com/native-american/9vx3f2s2zw0ogkq6zhxd98gnaj3nau