

## CHAPTER 2

### SPANISH SOUTH CAROLINA

#### I. Exploration and Empire

A. Introduction. Sixteenth century Europe was a world in turmoil. The Protestant Reformation led to religious wars between Protestants and Roman Catholics. Nation states in France, England, Spain, and Portugal were emerging from the chaos of the Middle Ages. Between 1492 and 1535 (the founding of Lima, Peru), Spain conquered more territory than Rome did in five centuries. Spanish conquistadors and missionaries created an empire that was the envy of the western world. Other nations, jealous of Spain's success, joined the race to create their own empires.

#### B. Impulses behind exploration and colonization

1. The desire for wealth was the most important motive, followed closely by a desire for land.
2. The conquest of new territory for "King and Country" also was a motivating factor.
3. Spreading a particular version of Christianity (Protestant or Catholic) or seeking a religious haven led some to explore and settle in the New World.
4. All of these motives at one time or another affected European exploration and colonization of what is now South Carolina.

#### II. Empires in the New World and South Carolina. Spanish explorations and settlements in South Carolina were an integral part of Spain's imperial expansion.

- \*1. In 1529-1520, Cortez conquered Mexico.**
2. In 1520 Vasquez de Ayllon explored the Carolina coast.
3. In 1526 De Allyon founded San Miguel.
- \*4. In 1531 Pizzaro conquered Peru.**
- \*5. De Soto explored what is now the southeastern United States, including portions of South Carolina between 1539 and 1541.**

**\*6. The Spanish founded St. Augustine in 1565.**

7. The Spanish settled Santa Elena and San Felipe in 1566.

**\*D. France, envious of Spain's empire, tried unsuccessfully to establish colonies at Charlesfort (1562) and Fort Carolina (1564) in what is now the southeastern United States.**

E. Impact of Spanish and French explorations

1. The legacy of European mistreatment of the Indians was, unfortunately, the most lasting legacy of French and Spanish exploration and settlement in South Carolina.

2. The only other trace of these empires was in placenames: St. Helena (Spanish) and Port Royal (French).

F. Readings

1. Edgar, South Carolina: A History, Chapter 2

2. Horne, South Carolina, 72-79

3. Blum, Catton, The National Experience, pp. 1-8

4. Kovacic & Winberry, South Carolina, pp. 65-67