

# Europeans Explore and Settle the Americas

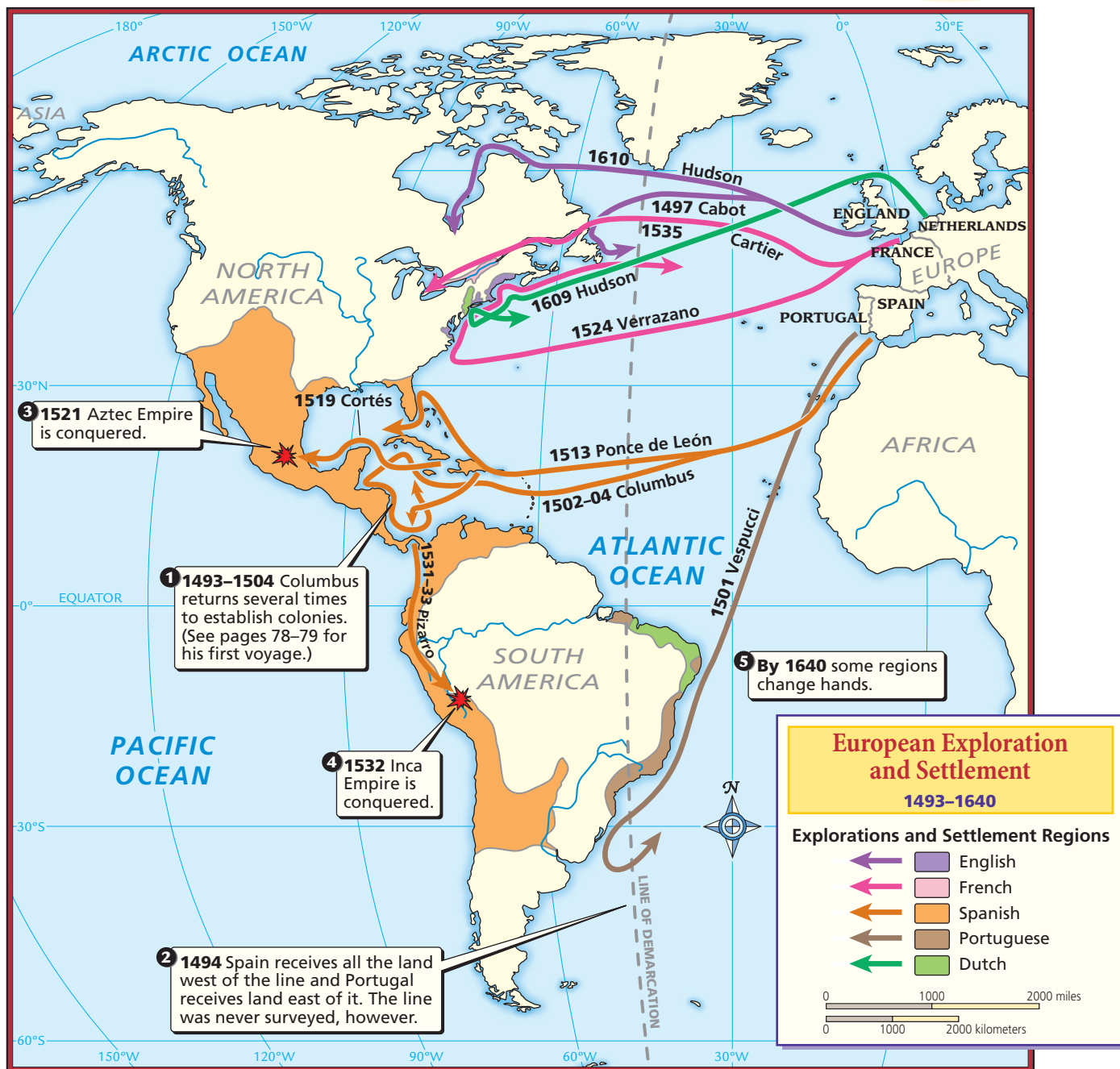
Early European explorers searching for the Indies found unexpected opportunities in the Americas. By 1750 Europeans controlled most of the Americas.

- Europeans established colonies in the Americas and looked for ways to make a profit from the land and its resources.
- European colonization led to the conquest of Native American peoples, including the Aztec and Inca Empires.
- As European land claims expanded, Native Americans lost control of their traditional lands.

## What about Australia?

Australia wasn't settled by Europeans until the late 1700s. At the time, **transportation** (deportation) was a common punishment for crimes. Between 1787 and 1868, about 162,000 convicts were shipped from Great Britain to Australia.

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**A** Exploration of the Americas led to the establishment of European land claims and settlement regions. By 1640 which European country had the largest settlement regions?

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**B**

Caribbean plantation owners used African slaves to plant and harvest sugar cane, extract its juices, and boil it into sugar. Life for these slaves was especially brutal. They rarely survived more than seven years on a sugar plantation.

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**C** Europeans in Middle and South America made money through activities such as sugar production and silver mining. An estimated one third of Europe's economy came from sugar.

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