

## F. America: From Obstacle to Goal (1584)

1. After Columbus's discovery, many other explorers set out for the "New World" to find the quickest possible route to Asia.
2. England sent Giovanni Caboto (a.k.a. John Cabot), and he became the first European to reach Newfoundland since Leif Erickson.
3. Both the Portuguese and the Spanish kings sent explorers to South America, laying claim to their respective parts of what would become the Ibersphere.
4. Only in 1524 did another Italian navigator, Giovanni da Verrazano, sailing in this case for France, actually explore the east coast of *North* America.
5. The map below shows or Europeans continued to think of America. Mr. Powell calls it the "map of hope," because it shows both a gap in America (showing the hope that one could sail *through* America to Asia) and a North America that is much smaller and thinner than it really is (showing the hope that one could sail "*over*" America to Asia).



The Waldseemüller Map of 1507 shows the evolving European concept of America.

6. Apart from the of the Aztec empire of Mexico and the Inca empire of Peru the primitive natives of America were still in the "stone age." As far as the Europeans were concerned, therefore, America remained an *obstacle* to getting to their real objective: Asia.
7. As late as 1576, English writers such as the explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert wrote an essay entitled "*A Discourse of a Discovery for a New Passage to Cathay.*" ("Cathay" was a European name for China at the time.) Gilbert was essentially promoting the idea of a "Northwest Passage" to Asia.

8. Only in 1584 did Richard Hakluyt write an essay entitled “*Discourse on Western Planting.*” This started to change peoples’ minds about America. By “planting,” Hakluyt meant the settlement of America by colonists.

#### G. Colonization

1. Richard Hakluyt was proposing the *colonization* of America. What does this mean?
  - a) A “colony” is a distant territory settled by the people of a country in order to bring that territory under the control of the mother country.
  - b) The people who organize colonization are called “colonizers.”
  - c) The people who actually leave their homes to settle in the new land are called “colonists.”
  - d) A small colonists settled starts out as a “settlement,” and grows into a “colony.”
2. European peoples had not colonized any part of the world for the entire duration of the Dark Ages. The last time a Western culture had created colonies was the time of the Roman empire. So why do it? And how?
  - a) One reason to create colonies in America, Hakluyt proposed, was connected to the ongoing need to explore. A colony across the Atlantic ocean could serve as a base of operations for further exploration.
  - b) A colony would also be a place where Christianity could grow—especially the English form of Christianity, known as Anglicanism. This included the possibility of converting primitive peoples to Christian belief by missionary activity.
  - c) The main reason to create colonies was to create an Anglosphere of trade. If goods such as tobacco could be produced by Englishmen, then the English would not have to buy them from the Spanish, whom they did not wish to enrich through trade.