

L. Visualizing the *Whole* of American History So Far

1. Before both *Early* and *Modern* American history is the story of *Colonial America*.
2. Traditional history teaches us to view this colonial story as **trivia**. (Recall the example from page 1 of the notes about the landing of the pilgrims in 1620, a notorious groups of religious colonists, about whom most Americans are taught to memorize certain facts of no real consequence.) The details of this story can certain be of great relevance, but only in their proper context. That context—*the anchor facts*—that make the other facts of colonial history important are:
  - a) **1584** - *publication of the “Discourse on Western Planting”* by Richard Hakluyt, which helped changed the European point of view about America
  - b) **1607/8** - the tandem anchor fact of how competing English and French colonization efforts were initiated
  - c) **1756-63** - the anchor fact that allows us to understand why we speak English! Literally. England won the colonial wars. Therefore, American culture after 1763 is fundamentally rooted in English culture, not French or any other. There could be no truth of greater significance, as we shall see in the next section about America’s inheritance of the English theory of rights.
3. The anchor facts of 1584, 1607/8, and 1756-63 must now be added to our summary/practice timeline:

