

Foundations of the Modern World: Northern Europe II

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Gentrain Fall 2025

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Introduction

- This is our last lecture on the foundation of the modern world.
- We began with the Southern European exploration of alternate routes to the lucrative Indian Ocean trade and the discovery of a new continent in the fifteenth century.
- Despite major European conflicts, the exploration of the world, settlements, and trading moved ahead in the seventeenth century. The Northern governance systems began to catch up on the lag.

Introduction

• The governance systems and the parliaments indicated their long-term comparative advantages or disadvantages. We can expect from the coming decades that Parliaments with a higher activity index will have an edge over absolutism and totally non-representative political systems.

Introduction

- We have also observed various approaches to settlement and relations with Indigenous peoples. We will see one more today.
- An old industry, piracy assumed multiple new forms by the seventeenth century and claimed its share of the burgeoning exchange of wealth and resources over oceanic waters. We will discuss one more pattern of it, undergoing tremendous change from the sixteenth to the seventeenth century.

The Dutch-English Duo

- Disgruntled and persecuted religious groups like the Huguenots of France contributed to the rising power of the liberal Dutch state. The Atlantic also opened opportunities for success and sustenance to persecuted Church groups in Europe.
- As Northern Europe rose in eminence, the British and the Dutch valued their economic interests more than their religious orientations.

The Dutch-English Duo

• Being Protestants did not diminish commercial rivalries or possibilities of war between England and the Netherlands. In the seventeenth century, they indulged, at heavy costs, in three rounds of the Anglo-Dutch Wars, 1648-52, 1665-67, and 1672-78. Maritime rivalry, the shipping industry, and control over colonies caused these wars.

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- As we learned last week, Northern Europe began to catch up to Southern Europe's maritime and trade advantage, beyond the disruptive and subversive activities of the pirates. We will begin with the Dutch story and then discuss England.
- The Dutch chronology is significant because this seaborne empire grew as part of its struggle for freedom.
- In 1568, the Eighty Years' War (Dutch Revolt) began against the Spanish/Catholic rule. By 1572, the rebellion had spread across the northern provinces.

- In 1579, the Union of Utrecht brought together the Northern provinces (Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, Friesland, Groningen, Overijssel, and Gelderland), creating the foundation of the Dutch Republic; the Southern provinces did not join the Union.
- In 1581, the Northern provinces formally declared independence from Spain. In 1588, they formally established the Dutch Republic after defeating the Spanish Armada.
- In 1648, the Peace of Westphalia formally recognized Dutch independence.

- In 1580, Spain annexed Portugal. Amid their struggle for freedom, Northern Netherlands renounced its allegiance to Philip II of Spain.
- While Spain continued to consider it as part of its possession, the Dutch seaborne trade to West Africa and Indonesia expanded between 1590-1600.

• In 1605, three years after the creation of the Dutch East India Company, the Dutch captured Amboina and drove the Portuguese from the Moluccas. The Spanish reclaimed it within a year, but evacuated from it in 1661-63, and the Dutch possessed it again. The Dutch attacked the Portuguese (Spanish) Mozambique and Malacca as well.

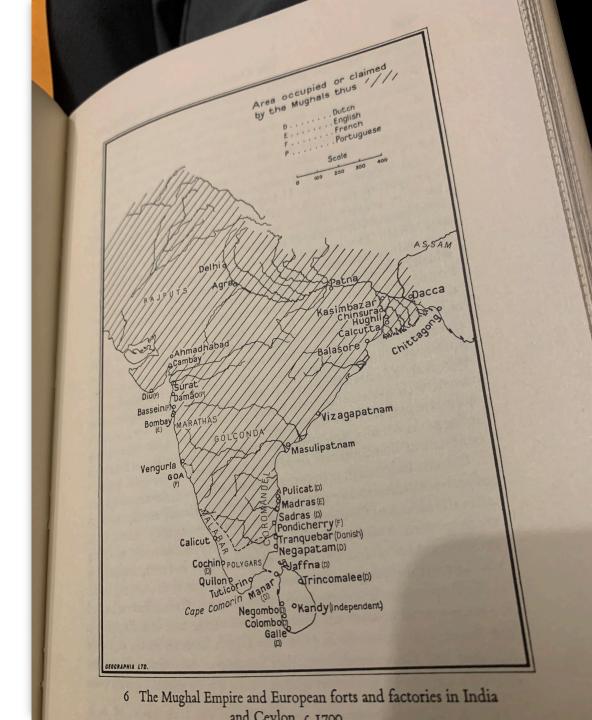
• In 1609, the Dutch established a factory at Hirado, an Island city of Nagasaki, in Japan. The Portuguese monopoly on the China-Japan trade ended in 1639 as part of the Japanese continuing drive against Christianity. By 1641, established at Deshima, then an Island, at Nagasaki, they were the only European traders allowed in Japan till 1853.

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- 1610-12, the Dutch founded settlements in Guiana (Suriname, principally) and the Guinea coast, where, by 1638, they captured Elmina from the Portuguese on the Gold Coast and turned it into the headquarters of the Dutch West India Company's slave trade with the Americas.
- By 1614, the Dutch were active in the Hudson River area fur trade.

- The Thirty-Year War began in 1618. A year later, the Dutch adventurer Jan Pietersz Coen (1587–1629) burnt the Banda Islands (Jakarta) to the ground and then founded Batavia in its place, violently eliminating the native population and resistance, and consolidating the Dutch monopoly over the spice trade. Between 1650-1656, the Dutch completed the conquest of the Amboina group of the Spice Islands.
- By 1624-25, three years after the establishment of the Dutch West India Company, they had established New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island, but they lost it to the British within four decades.

- 1628, Piet Heyn successfully captured the silver fleet.
- In 1630, the Dutch began the conquest of Pernambuco in the Brazilian northeast, ousted by Portugal in 1652-54.
- In 1638, they began the conquest of coastal Ceylon, which they completed by 1654-58.
- In 1641, before concluding a ten-year truce with now independent Portugal, they captured Malacca.

- By 1661-63, they made peace with Portugal, but not before capturing the Indian Ocean port of Malabar.
 - During this period, they lost Formosa (Taiwan), which they had controlled since 1624, to a regional Chinese warlord, Coxinga. By 1682-84, the Manchus occupied it.
- Between 1688-97, the Dutch introduced the coffee tree into Java from Arabia.



- The Dutch achieved a unique growth out of their eighty-year, patiently sustained struggle for freedom, including the Thirty Years' European War 1618-48.
- The war trained the core Calvinist leadership in the Northern Netherlands to engage in aggressive commercial expansion. They "war-gamed" their future, blockading naval access to Antwerp via the river Scheldt, recognized in the Peace of Westphalia, and thus monopolizing the Baltic trade.

- During the long Dutch struggle for freedom, commerce became an instrument of survival, a branch of war, a magnet for men like-minded in religion, profession, and social status.
- The founders of the Dutch West India Company were high Calvinists bent on the destruction of Spanish power. During the first few decades of the Dutch Republic, many of its activities were a continuation of the crusades.

• Forged on the anvil of war, they were also superb realists. Gradually, security, freedom to trade, and not a crusade, became the Dutch motto. Toleration, so long as it led to stability, became the watchword of the Dutch in a "country where the state system was designed for inaction and inactivity" (Plumb, in Boxer, XXI).

- The Dutch, nonetheless, declared Calvinism as the only fully accepted faith and reinforced it through several means:
 - Reserved all municipal and government offices for the Calvinists.
 - Synod of Dort, held in Dordrecht in 1619, rejected Arminianism (free will and less strict predestination) and further strengthened the Calvinist Ministers. Calvinists managed all charities.
 - They administered all elementary schools, opened in the confiscated Catholic church buildings.

- Under the Union of Utrecht 1579, they agreed to present a united front to the outsiders, delegating enumerated foreign policy powers to the States General. Each of the Dutch Seven provincial states retained its sovereignty. They obeyed an order only if they had voted for it.
- Under Utrecht, an assembly of all delegates, each delegate having one vote, took decisions by consensus. Any new initiative required consultations with the provinces, who in turn could also reach out to the town councils.

- Gradually, influential provincial towns like Amsterdam figured out ways to forge consensus on crucial issues of commerce and defense.
- Between 1581 and 1795, the upper middle class dominated the Dutch Republic, an oligarchy of some 10,000 people who monopolized all the provincial and municipal offices.

- The Dutch society was deeply involved in reality. It did not project any delusive images of feudal greatness or an imaginary sense of the past.
- The real world was the Dutch world. The precarious nature of its strategic situation, as well as the nature of its economic activity, bred a sense of actuality. They were quite unlike Lombardy and Tuscany,` whose merchant oligarchies had never succeeded in securing absolute control of the government (Plumb in Boxer, XXIV).

• The Dutch also grew accustomed to the "whirligigs of fortune" and became attuned to the sense that their affluence was poised on the thinnest of ice. They lost, for example, their position in Formosa, were kicked out of Brazil and New York, and the Oceanic trade was a gamble; either huge profits or severe losses.

- The Dutch burgher-oligarchy in the free states strengthened its hold. The urban capitalists bought most land in Holland, Zeeland, and Utrecht to promote trade and industry.
- Antwerp fell to the Catholic power in 1585. Spain gave the Protestants two years to leave or convert. Between 1585 and 1622, the population of the city of Amsterdam increased by 75,000, reaching a total of 105,000.
- For the protestant immigrants from the South, the scarce land was expensive. So, they increasingly invested in the shipping industry.

The Dutch "Modern" Initiatives

- Economically, as the notion of property and trading zones expanded, the Dutch led the efforts to craft new financial instruments.
 - Beginning in 1585, the Dutch published weekly commodity prices in Amsterdam. London followed suit eighty years later.
 - Beginning in 1598, a Chamber of Assurance registered policies and settled disputes, and retained primacy in maritime insurance well into the eighteenth century.
 - England had known insurance since the fifteenth century, progressing beginning early in the seventeenth while Lloyds undertook its first policy late seventeenth century.

The Dutch "Modern" Initiatives

- The Dutch banking system introduced credit that replaced cash. From 1601-1620, the Dutch innovated three major financial institutions:
 - The Beurs (Bourse, stock exchange) of Amsterdam (1601)
 - The Wissel (Exchange) Bank 1609 was the largest public bank in 17th-century Europe. It functioned as a clearing house. Merchant account holders there could settle debts and credits by simple book transfers to each other.
 - The Amsterdam Loan Bank (1614--England established a more advanced Central Bank in 1694.)

Calvinism in the Netherlands

- Unlike the powers that surrounded them, the Dutch level of tolerance and diversity was unprecedented.
- Spain had extended the purity principle to its colonies, forbidding Muslims, Jews, the children and grandchildren of Jews, Muslims, and conversos, or Muslims as slaves in the Crown colonies.

Calvinism in the Netherlands

- Both Iberian powers extended the Inquisition to their colonial territories.
- Spain educated its new subjects about the enemies of the faith as well.
- The Dutch focused on harnessing all the energies for their commercial interests. In the 1630s, the city of Amsterdam allowed both Lutherans and Jews to build public places for worship.

Dutch Contribution

- The Dutch flute personified their commitment to trade in bulk commodities, shifting away from luxury goods.
- By the 1590s, the Dutch were the best shipbuilders in the world. The Flute remained the standard design for ocean transport throughout Europe until the end of the 18th century.
- The shipbuilding industry hired about 2 percent of the Dutch population.
- An estimate placed European shipping in the 1670s at about 2 million tons. The Dutch claimed just under half of it, their merchant fleet then being twice that of England.

- By 1648, tells Boxer, backed by their shipping industry, the Dutch were" indisputably the greatest trading nation in the world..."
- Within Europe, Boxer cites C. Wilson, "... they had managed to capture three-quarters of the traffic in Baltic grain, between half and three-quarters of the traffic in timber, and between a third and a half of that in Swedish metals. Three-quarters of the salt from France and Portugal that went to the Baltic was carried in Dutch bottoms. More than half the cloth imported to the Baltic area was made or finished in Holland."

• All this was, Boxer continues, "in addition to the fact that they were the largest importers and distributors of such varied colonial wares as spices, sugar, porcelain, and trade-wind beads" (Boxer (and Wilson cited), 27).

The Anglo-Dutch Wars

- Maritime rivalry resulted in three Anglo-Dutch Wars in the seventeenth century, partly because the two nations did not share the oceanic philosophy.
- Hugo Grotius, a legal theorist, published Mare Liberum on a Dutch initiative in 1609. Grotius argued "from natural law that the seas were free to the navigation of all people and no power should restrain their right."

The Anglo-Dutch Wars

- The Dutch States General weighed in on the mare liberum versus mare clausum (closed sea) debate by adopting a resolution in 1645 to "support freedom of the seas" and advocating, as such rights of neutral shipping. The French took a similar position.
- James I, however, claimed both imperium and dominium and, as such, banned 1609 Dutch fishing in British waters.

• Mare Liberum was the Dutch lifeline. The need for new markets, the confiscatory embargoes which the Crown of Spain, as well as of Portugal, annexed in 1580, imposed on the Northern Netherlands shipping in Iberian harbors in 1585, 1595, and 1598, encouraged them to find long-distance markets rather than the carrying trade of the Mediterranean and Levant (Boxer, 21).

- Between 1652-54, the relations with England worsened because of the 1650-51 English Navigation Act, which discriminated against Dutch seaborne trade. The Dutch suffered because of the first Anglo-Dutch War.
- After the Second Anglo-Dutch War, 1665-67, the Treaty of Breda formally recognized the British conquest of the Dutch North American possessions, including New Amsterdam; while the Dutch retained Suriname, and their monopoly over the spice trade in Southeast Asia, further reinforced by recognition of Dutch suzerainty by the Mataram sultanate in 1677, and Bantam in 1682-84.

- Between 1672-74, the third Anglo-Dutch War occurred as part of the French attack on the Netherlands because of a secret treaty which provoked parliamentary resentment against Charles II. Initially, the British sided with France but withdrew in 1674 as the Parliament refused to fund the war.
- The French claimed the Spanish Netherlands and protested Dutch maritime hostilities. The Dutch, a weaker power, bravely resisted the invasion while Spain, the Holy Roman Empire, and Brandenburg came to their rescue.

• In 1678, the Dutch made peace through the Treaty of Nijmegen, which mainly gave the French more of the Spanish Netherlands territory but preserved the integrity of the Dutch Republic.

Pirate	Sea bandits, or sailors who seize property and/or people by force.
Privateer	Pirates who operate with a legal license from a state government to attack enemy ships and ports during wartime, keeping a contractual share of seized goods.
Smuggler	A trader who deals in contraband (illegal) goods, or who trades with the enemy, or who trades to evade taxes, customs, or international blockades.
Freebooter	A soldier who works for "booty" or plunder (i.e., a profit-sharing (from Dutch) mercenary).
Filibuster	The term evolved from freebooter, but in English meant adventurers (primarily American) who attempted to stage coups and take over foreign states, particularly in Latin America.
Buccaneer	Originally, castaway colonists (usually French or English) on Hispaniola (from French), who survived by hunting or raising livestock, and then smoking it (boucanier), to sell meat and hides to passing ships.
Corsair	Originally a type of fast sailing ship, it extended to apply to mercenary (from French) coast guard or customs agents along the Barbary Coast of North Africa.

Categories of Early Atlantic Pirates and their Kin Shannon Lee Dawdy and Joe Bonni, "Towards a General Theory of Piracy," *Anthropological Quarterly* 85, no. 3 (Summer 2012): 673–699.

- If the British history of oceanic conquests begins with exploration and piracy, it would be no surprise for Northern Europe in the sixteenth century. While the north lagged in trading colonies, piracy was a major source of information and, of course, a share of the maritime wealth.
- We learned about the achievements of Peter Hein and French privateers last week.

- Britain, like France, stretched the limits of statecraft in the 1580s and 1590s, issuing letters of marque for privateers to prey on Iberian shipping. They encouraged, patronized, sponsored, and adjudicated the privateering exertion to extract their share of the riches from the precious metal mines that sailed to Spain, the exploiting state of South America.
- The disaster of the Armada, partly a reaction to growing piracy, in the English Channel in 1588, served as a severe blow to the Spanish conquistadors.

- Elizabethan England patronized skillful pirates such as Francis Hawkins and one of his apprentices, Sir Francis Drake.
- Secrecy marked the knowledge and information derived from the maritime explorations. Queen Elizabeth viewed as a security document the illustrated log Sir Francis Drake presented to her at the end of his voyage around the world (1577-80).
- Exploration also paid off. In Drake's case, the investors earned 75 pounds for each pound invested. He also earned a knighthood.

- While they were useful, the pirates were unpredictable partners.
- Before Elizabeth appointed Drake as the vice admiral of the naval forces combating the Armada, he had been on a crucial mission of subverting the Armada plans within the Spanish harbor of Cadiz in 1587, a task he did well. There was always, however, a lingering doubt about the value of the loot (profits!)
- In 1587, the Spanish estimates were that Drake deprived them of more than £ 250,000 worth of cash and goods in the campaign around Azores. His investors had an account of £ 114,000 only.

- In the same year, the Crown commissioned Drake to disrupt the Cadiz harbor of Spain to frustrate and annihilate the planned Armada attack on England. This is how his biographer details his departure: "As winter progressed, it became more apparent that King Philip was preparing for an invasion fleet. In consequence, Drake was given a deadline of 20 March for completion of his preparations. On 18 March, Drake signed a contract with the London merchants who would supply many of the ships. By this agreement, "whatsoever pillage shall be had by sea or land" would be divided equally, half to the crown and half to the investors. The royal contribution was made in the form of four ships of war" (Kelsey, 287)
- Drake was able to send some prize ships home and gathered crucial intelligence as well.
- The Queen engaged him for the attack on the Armada, a fight that England won in 1588.

- The views about pirates began to change as the English trade grew.
- Under James I, the pirates had to be reigned in as the relations with Spain improved.
- By 1691, England faced a complex piracy situation at home, arising out of King James II's ill-fated attempt, with the help of Louis XIV, to win his throne back. The effort failed and ended in Ireland in 1691 with a capitulation to the victors. The Treaty of Limerick allowed James II to withdraw his troops and supplies to France.
- While still at war, James II was determined to strike back by issuing commissions, or Letters of Marque, to some of his Irish officers to act as privateers against British shipping.
- The new government at Westminster captured and prosecuted a handful of these captains in 1692–1693.

- This trial viewed the pirates as the "common enemies to all mankind," not "privateers" acting under the authority remaining in King James II. In 1692, some of them were convicted and hanged.
- Historian Buchan cites John Locke's contemporaneous definition of a pirate as "an agent of the endemic insecurity of the state of nature, a figure who exercised violence solely on his or her own account without any legitimate state sanction."
- The tide had turned. The "common enemies to all mankind," then, became the standard to look at pirates, with no more honorific titles (Buchan, 75-76).

- British overseas colonies generated further piracy-related complications. Instead of benefiting from the piracies, the British authorities had become another Spain or Portugal facing piracies of their precious trade on the high seas.
- In 1695, Henry Avery (1659-?) raided the Ganj-i-Sawai (literally: a treasure that surpassed all others), in the Red Sea on its way back to India, a shipload of precious objects that belonged to the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

- The British attempted to assuage the Mughal Emperor's outrage by staging a public trial in 1696. While Avery managed to disappear, the British executed several members of his crew.
- The Company managed to negotiate compensation money to the Mughal throne, to have its trading posts fully restored, and officers released.
- The raid could have terminated EIC's hopes of doing business in India.
- In 1701, the British also executed William Kidd for other acts of piracy committed in the Indian Ocean (Buchan, 63-64).

Parliamentary Activity Index

- We learned last week that the parliamentary activity index was a major founding principle of the modern period. In Northern Europe, this index remained in the ascendance. There was no decline in parliamentary activity from the sixteenth century onwards. In England, the Netherlands, and Sweden, parliaments increased their activities in the early modern period.
- From 1572 onwards, the estates of Holland and the estates-general of the northern Low Countries assumed sovereignty and created a true republic. The English Civil War was almost as daring in its achievements. The long struggle between king and Parliament ended with the Glorious Revolution of 1688, which gave Parliament strongly enhanced powers and limited the role of the kings in a radical way (Zanden, Buringh, and Bosker, 841-42).

Parliamentary Activity Index

- As early as the second half of the fifteenth century, during the Wars of the Roses (1453-87), the practice was introduced of having Parliament in session throughout the year. Henry VIII's Reformation was another reason for having Parliament meet all year (1529-1536).
- The struggle between absolutism and Parliament during the first half of the seventeenth century is shown by the alternation of long periods when it was not convened (such as between 1630 and 1640) and periods in which it met all the time (most significantly, of course, the 'Long Parliament' that deposed Charles I and reigned from 1640 to 1660). After 1688, it met permanently (844).

- Unlike Iberians and the French, and like the Dutch, the British exploration and trading monopolies functioned through private, joint stock companies, with limited liability.
- The East India Company turned out to be the most resourceful, innovative, and expansionist charter ever granted, but we must note that it was all an evolutionary process.
- In the seventeenth century, within the first decade of its creation, the company had established its first factory at Masulipatnam, on the east coast of India.

- In the second decade, 1611-20, it engaged its Portuguese rivals in the short naval battle of Swally 1612 near Surat, India, to find a foothold on the west coast. They found an ally in the Mughal Emperor Jahangir, who allowed them to establish the first permanent base in Surat.
- In the second decade, the company suffered severe humiliation at the hands of the Dutch East India Company in Amboina, Southeast Asia, losing ten lives in 1623. It decided to focus its trading energy on India.

• Further opportunities and permissions for more outposts kept coming: 1632, in Golconda (present-day Hyderabad); 1633, Balasore and Harihapur on the Mahanadi delta of the state of Odisha; 1639, Madras; 1651, for a fee, duty-free trading rights in Bengal; 1668, the Crown leased to the company Charles II's dowry of Portuguese Bombay, which he had possessed since 1662. Now, Mumbai; 1690, after the ongoing conflict with the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, sued for peace; 1696, laid down the foundations of what later became Calcutta. Construction of Fort William began there in 1700-01; 1698, Bengal accorded Zamindari rights (i.e., appointed revenue collectors) to three villages.

New Alliances

- Following the claim of independence in 1640, the Portuguese sought to secure alliances that might deter future Spanish adventures. England became the first choice.
- King John IV married his daughter, Catherine of Braganza, to Charles II in 1661. Her dowry included Tangier that Portugal had repossessed from Spain, and Bombay they had claimed from a local ruler since 1534.
- The British leased Bombay out to the East Indian Company in 1668.

New Alliances

- The British and the Portuguese further reinforced their alliance under the Methuen Treaty of 1703.
- Under this treaty, the two countries codified two concessions.

- First, the Portuguese exchanged their wines and precious metals for British textiles;
- Second, the treaty granted England access to Brazil, a growingly rewarding market in the Americas.

- The East India Company in the seventeenth century, focused on trade, was not the innovative and proficient capitalist behemoth it would become in the years to come.
- Learning included maritime routes also. Between 1601 and 1640, says Dalrymple, the Company sent 168 ships eastward. Only 104 returned. But the profits were high. The subscription for the first Joint Stock raised £ 418,000 in 1613; the second in 1617: £ 1.6 million (20).
- The Company also gained influence with decision-makers at home, several MPs being its shareholders. This influence will also keep rising.

- The East India Company also excluded any religious ambition and avoided missionaries until the Charter Act of 1813 required it to allow missionaries from England and other parts of the British Empire to work legally within its Indian territories.
- We can look at the first hundred years of its inception as a long learning curve, understanding a highly functional, productive, and rewarding agricultural economy with tremendous and diverse exportable surplus available for purchase against bullion (Singh, overview). This is also an India of multiple centers of power and geographic centers, despite Mughal hegemony

- One measure of EIC's future to come is that it would begin to generate all financial resources for Indian and regional trade and expenses locally, but not yet. As the eighteenth century kicked in, writes Dalrymple, "the Dutch and East India Companies between them shipped into Bengal cargoes annually worth around £ 54 million today, 85 percent of which was silver" (26).
- Imported bullion paid for the profitable purchase of cotton textiles, pepper, indigo, saltpetre, and opium, which the Company began to use in the China trade.

- Within European rivals along the Indian coast, it was a tense yet workable coexistence.
- In the next century, the Mughal power at the elusive center will begin to unravel with the death of Aurangzeb in 1707. The Company will become a dominant actor in a fragmenting ecosystem, ready to exploit its unparalleled understanding of native networks, strengths, and weaknesses for unbelievable advantages.

- The East India Company was not the only direction of trading and exploration. Unlike India and Muscovy, the Royal charters for North America were precursors to exploration and settlement, providing legal frameworks, land rights, and often self-government to colonies. Between 1620 and 1681, the monarchs issued various charters for North America:
- 1606: James I, the Virginia Company; 1620: as part of it, the Mayflower Compact was settled at Plymouth, New England
- 1629: Charles I, to the Massachusetts Bay Company
- 1632: Charles I to Lord Baltimore for Maryland
- 1662: Charles II, Connecticut
- 1663: Charles II, Rhode Island, and the Carolinas
- 1681: Charles II, William Penn for Pennsylvania

Left to themselves, the settlers exercised full freedom of entrepreneurship and faith within their jurisdictions:

- Virginia adopted the Anglican church.
- New England states became home to Calvinist Puritanism.
- Ousted from Massachusetts in 1635, Roger Williams founded the First Baptist Meeting House in Rhode Island.
- William Penn opened doors to the Religious Society of Friends, the Quakers, resented everywhere except in Rhode Island.

- Persecuted Catholics entertained hopes, though short-lived, of a Catholic regime in Maryland.
- The Carolinas engaged John Locke to write a constitution for them and welcomed multifaith settlers.
- The British trading and colonial outposts will grow differently later in various parts of the world.
- Alone out of them, these thirteen colonies will part ways with the mother country and develop into the most powerful United States in world history.

Conclusion

- The Portuguese pioneered the Oceanic exploration for an alternate route to the Indian Ocean in the fifteenth century. Spain discovered a new continent as part of the same search.
- The Atlantic thus became the home of the Oceanic Revolution, challenging the supremacy of the Mediterranean-Indian Ocean connections.
- The Iberians rushed to discover the new continent apportioned between them in 1494.
- Europe, in the sixteenth century, also wrestled with fundamental questions about its dominant belief system and was divided between Catholics and Protestants.

Conclusion

- The religious conflict in Europe continued in the seventeenth century, but the European powers, particularly Northern Europe, began to integrate the impact of the Oceanic Revolution into their trading, exploration, and expansionist ambitions.
- The Dutch emerged as a uniquely war-born, social and commercial power, which, along with England, its rival and partner, will develop legal, trading, financial, constitutional, and combat systems that will enable them to dominate the world for the next few centuries.