# Major Issues in Colonization: Comparing Spain, France, England, and the Netherlands

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| How did the Broad Trends in Europe (and Where These Europeans Went in the Americas) Lead to Differences in How the Europeans Dealt with the Americas? This table provides a way for you to think through the differences in the colonies. The table also tells you **who will eventually win** in North America.  Look at each row in the table. For example, ask yourself what is the difference in the practical consequence if the Europeans are:   * Predominantly male or come with their families? * Few in number and spread out or concentrated in one place? * Doing agriculture or trading with the native population? * Are individual farmers or large-scale (with many laborers needed) agriculture? * Believe they must convert the Indians or not? |

  The colors correspond to the areas on the Map of Colonization that are drawn with these colors.

| **Trait** | **Spanish** | **French** | **English** | **Dutch** |
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| Where they went? | Central and South America | Canada and down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of New Mexico | Atlantic sea coast | Area later called New York (Most of their colonies are in the Far East.) |
| Demographics of the colonies? | 450,000 through mid-1600s  Mainly male | 15,000 by 1700  Mainly male | Families:  > 2,000 in early 1600s  50,000 by mid-1600s | Families:  > 300 in early 1600s |
| Demographics of the colonies? (Why would ordinary people come?) | Catholicism dominated Spain, so mainly men, came not families | Protestants lived safely in France until the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, so until that time mainly men came, not families | From the beginning, there was regularly some group whose religion was rejected by the crown. With persecution, families have a reason to take the risk of taking women and children across the Atlantic and of living in a wilderness. [[1]](#footnote-1) | Although the initial settlers were some Protestant refugees,[[2]](#footnote-2) once the Spanish–those persecuting the Protestants—were forced out of the Netherlands, Protestant families were safe without moving to colonies |
| Economy of colonies? | Conquest – the conquistadors  Mining  Agriculture, large scale | Fur trade—the coureurs de bois (runners of the woods) | Agriculture  Shipbuilding | Fur trade  Breweries  Agriculture [[3]](#footnote-3) |
| Large landholdings? (feudal landholdings) | Yes | Yes, attempted but fails | Attempted, fails as feudalism but occurs with slavery in the South | Yes, called patroonships [[4]](#footnote-4) |
| Local governance? | Primarily a Spanish administration | Primarily a French administration | Local governance in the colonies, particularly in New England with its town meetings. (Covered with the English settlement.) | No, a Dutch administration |
| Missionary effort? | Yes, sometimes by forced conversion | Yes, but they adapt the religion to the Native Americans | Some, but generally separate from the Native Americans | ⎯ |
| Mix with the native population, including intermarriage? | Yes. Mainly a male population migrated. | Yes. Mainly a male population migrated. | Rarely. Among the reasons, migration of families in all areas but the South. | ⎯ |

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| **WCJC Department:** | History – Dr. Bibus |
| **Contact Information:** | 281.239.1577 or [bibusc@wcjc.edu](mailto:bibusc@wcjc.edu) |
| **Last Updated:** | 2019 |
| **WCJC Home:** | <http://www.wcjc.edu/> |

1. The English kings varied enough in religion that who was being persecuted changed. To see that for yourself, click [here for the link showing the English kings and their religions reveals](file:///C:\Users\cjbibus\Documents\-%20Server%202013-2014%20caution\1485_1776_English_Rulers.htm). (URL: http://www.cjbibus.com/http://www.cjbibus.com/1500\_1700\_Major\_Issues\_Colonization\_Answers.htm) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This and the remaining entries in the column are from the *Oxford Companion to United States History*, p. 199. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This and the remaining entries in the column are from the *Oxford Companion to United States History*, p. 199. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This and the remaining entries in the column are from the *Oxford Companion to United States History*, p. 199. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)