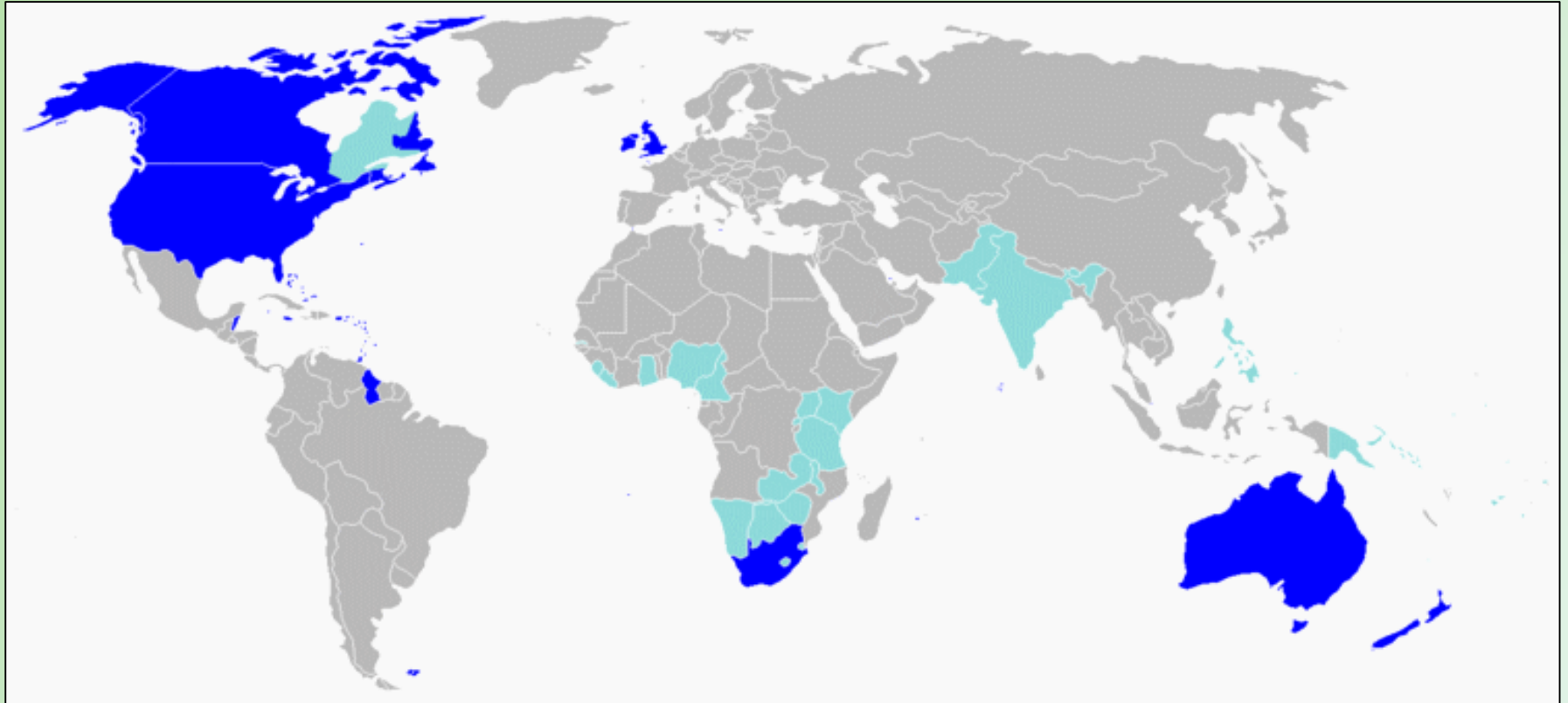


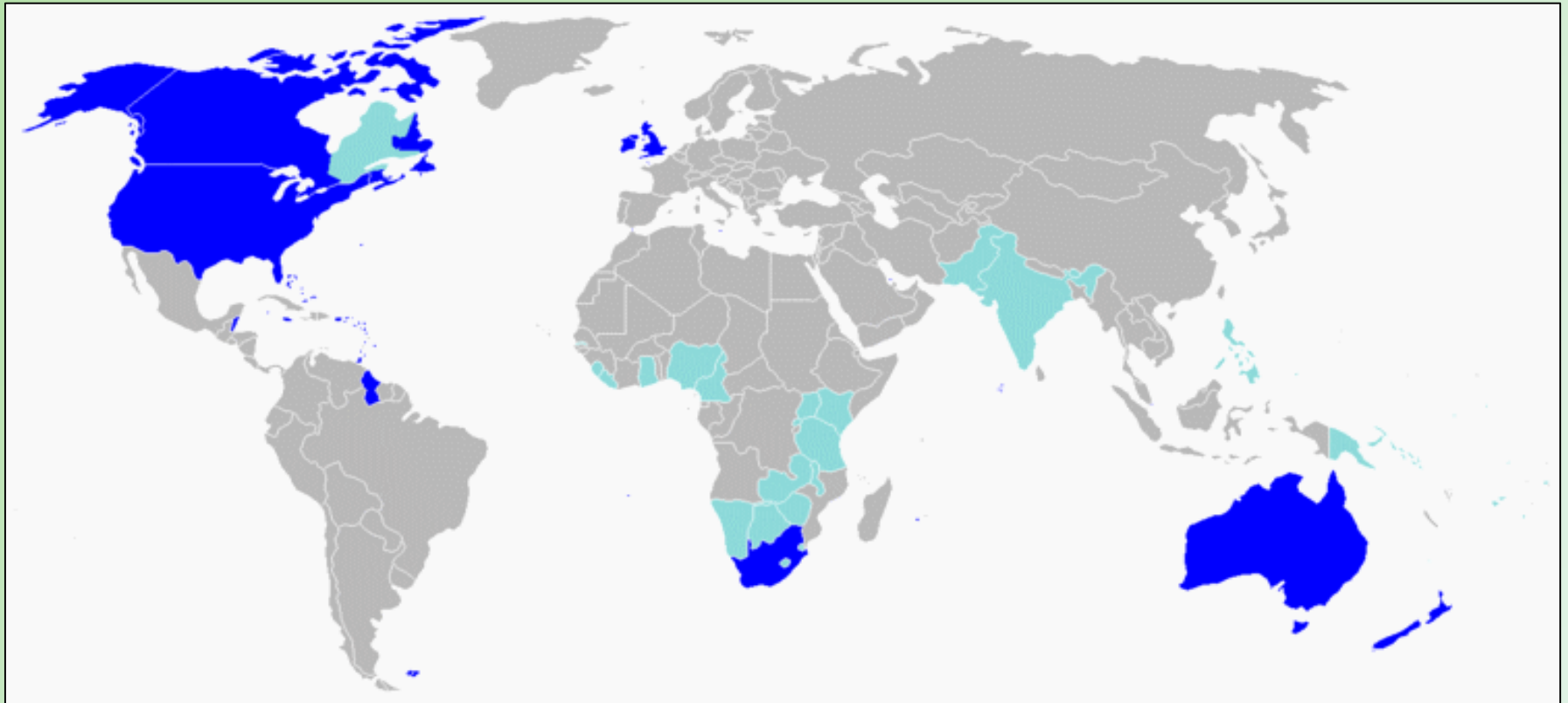
# The spread of English during the colonial period



Raymond Hickey

websites: [www.uni-due.de/SVE](http://www.uni-due.de/SVE) [www.uni-due.de/SHE](http://www.uni-due.de/SHE)

# The anglophone world today

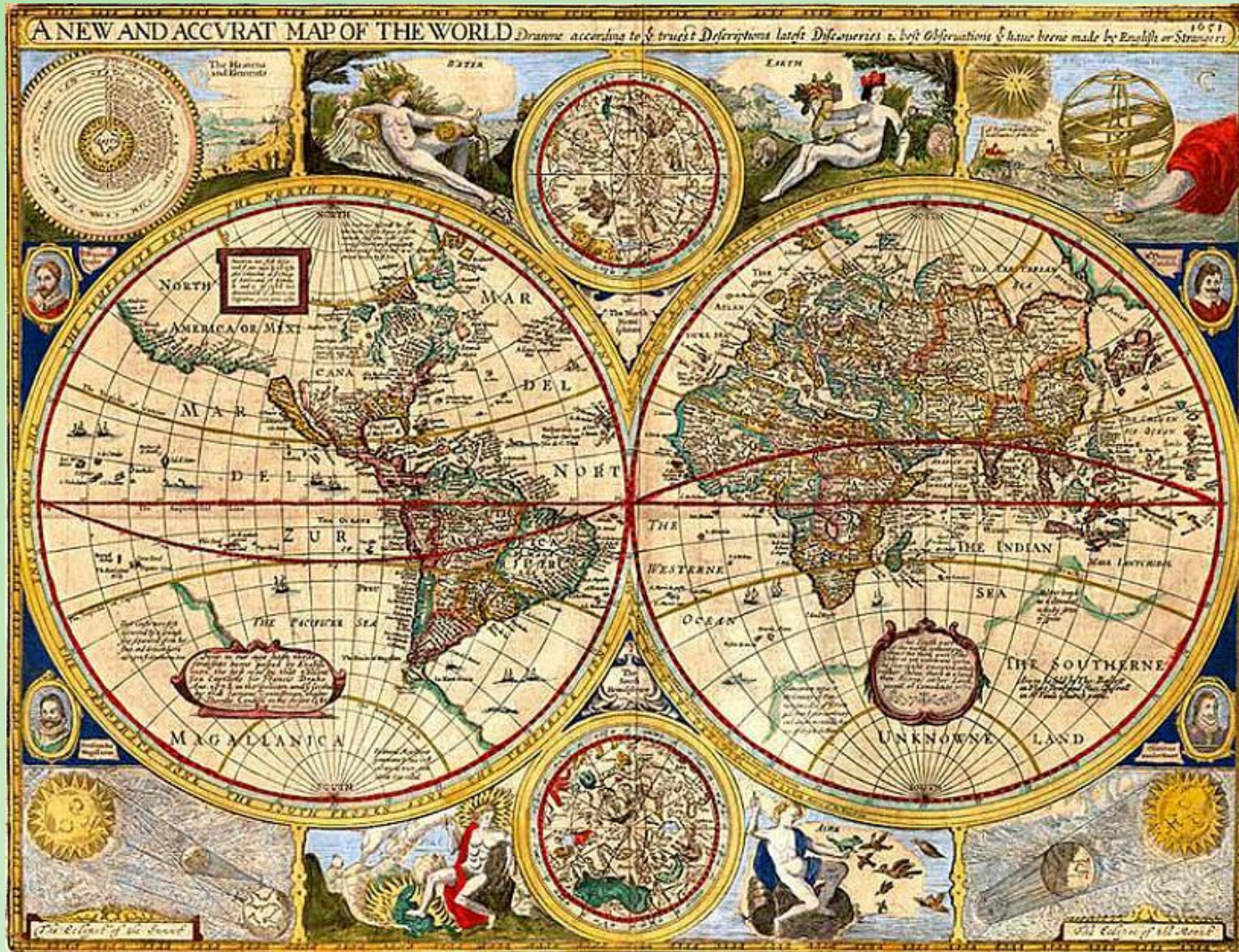


**Dark blue regions: English as first language**

**Light blue regions: English as second language**

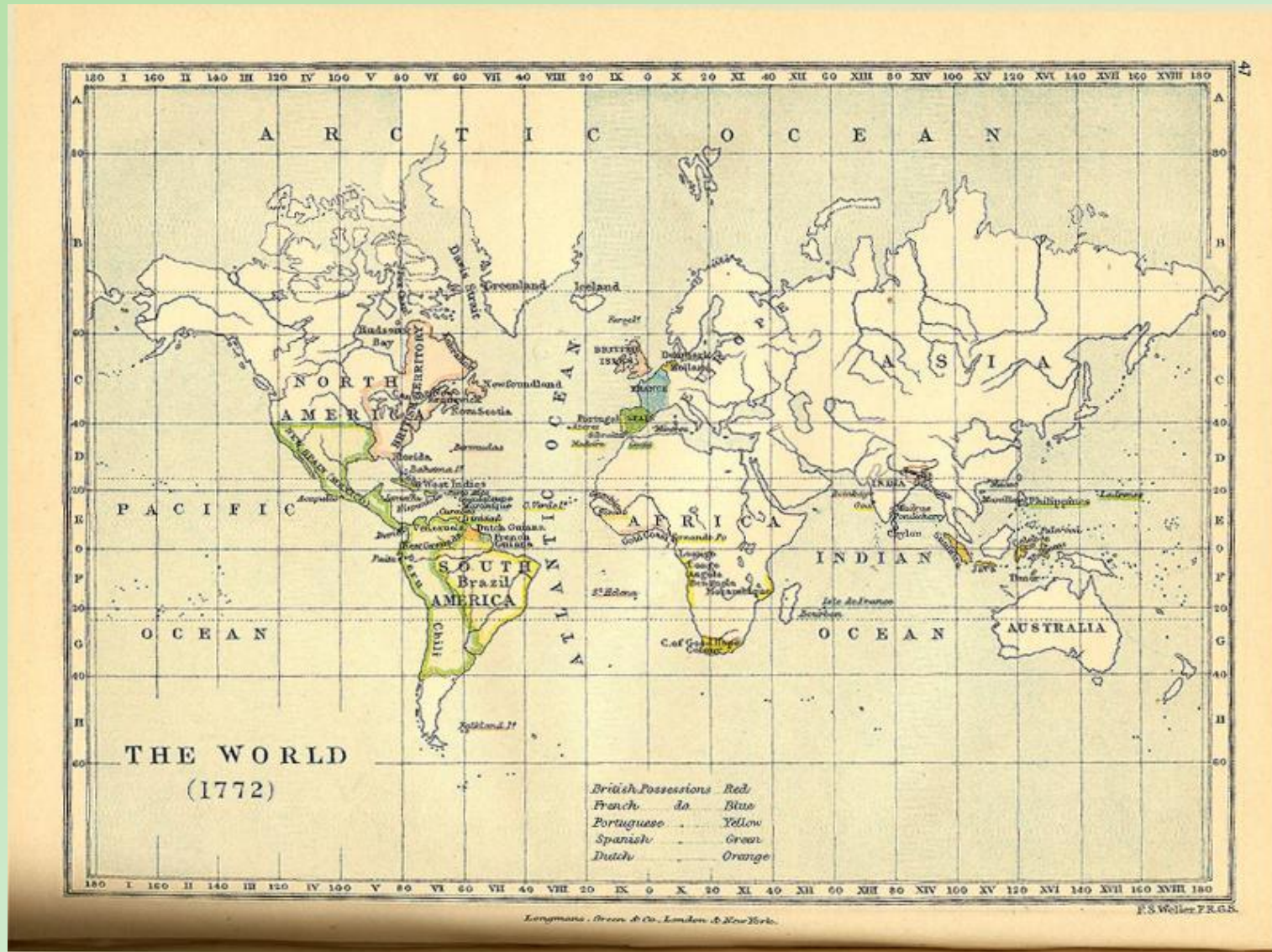


## A New and Accurate Map of the World (1627) by the English cartographer John Speed



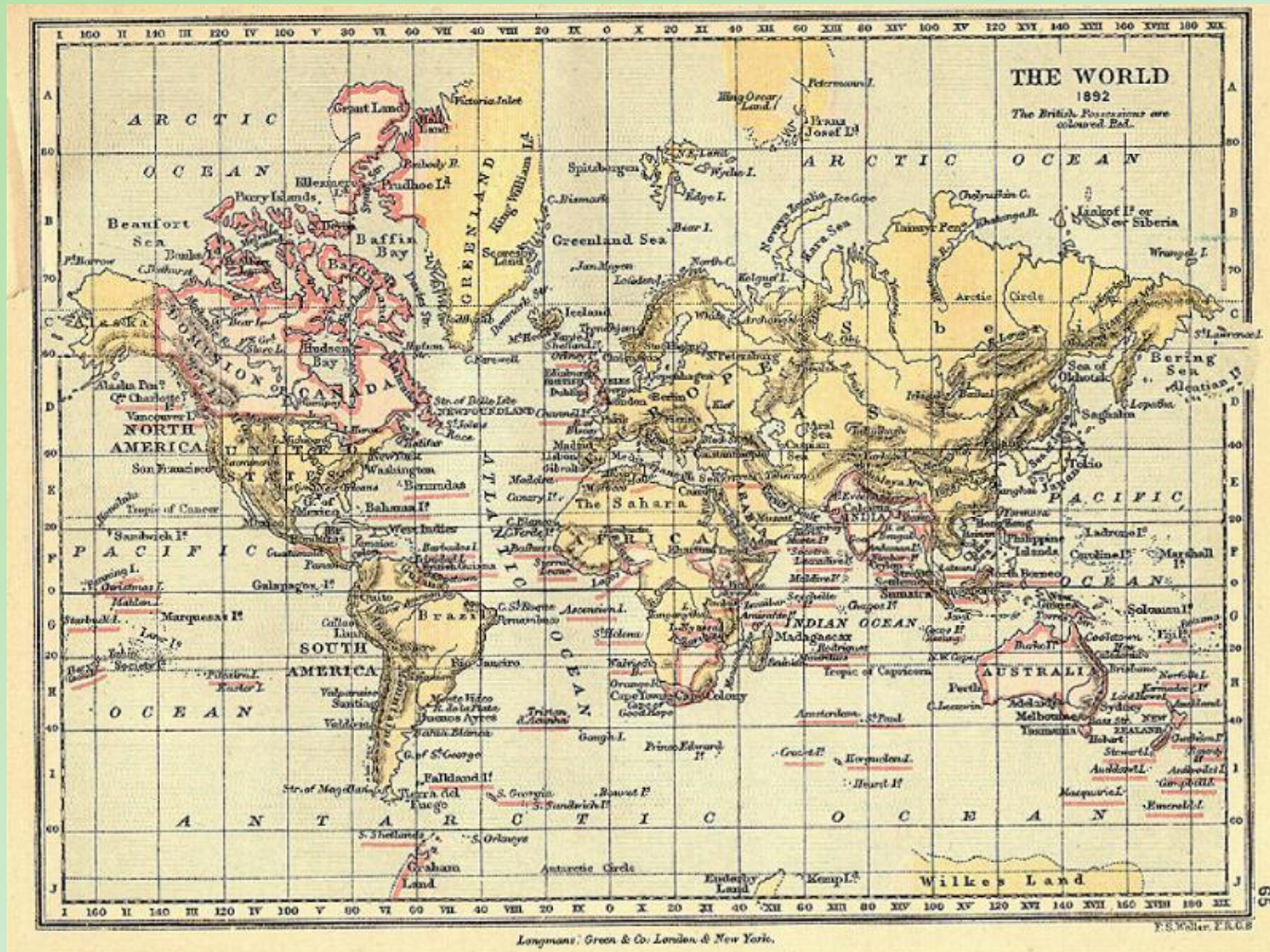


# The colonial world in the late 18th century



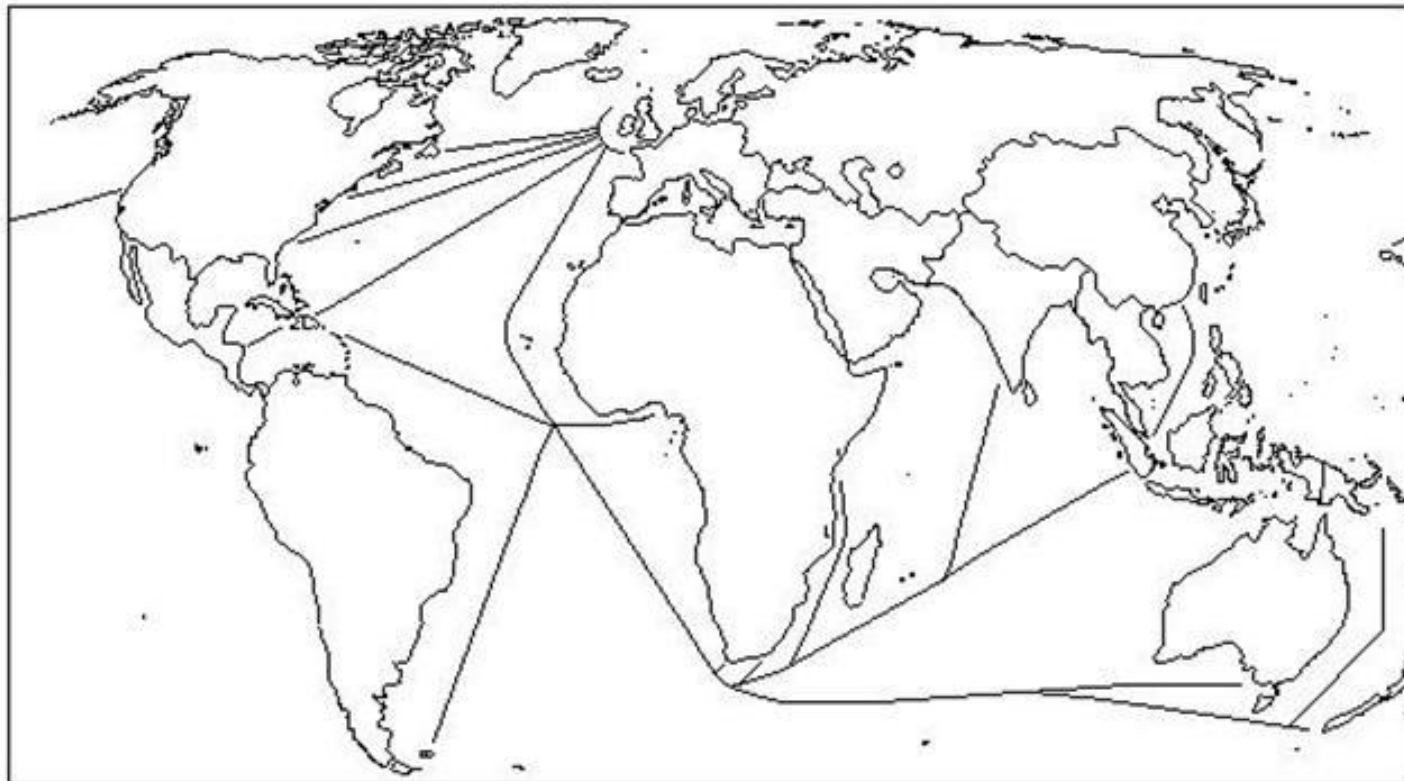


# The colonial world in the late 19th century



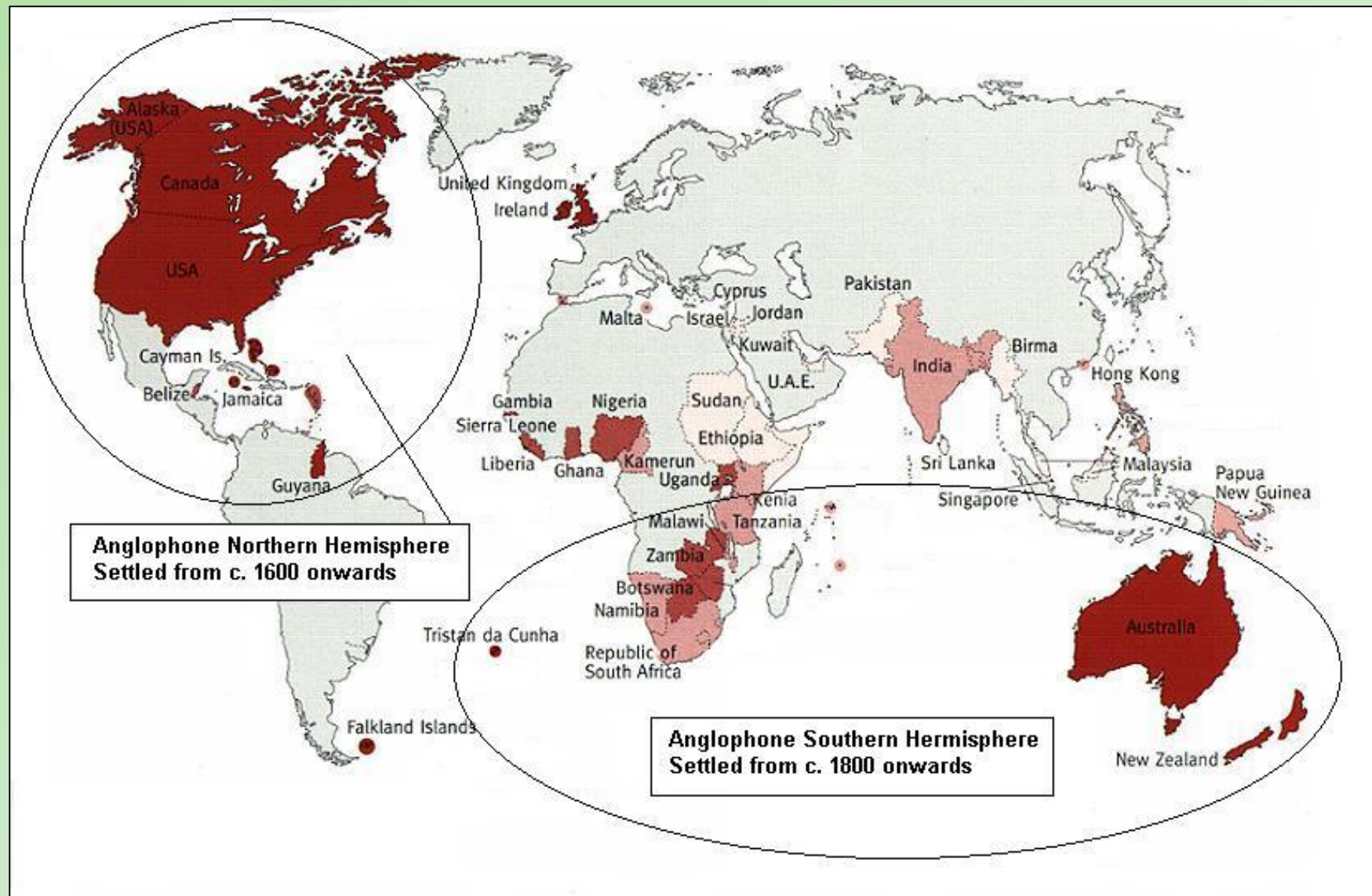
# Spread of English in colonial period

Routes taken during the spread of English from the British Isles in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries by the English, Scottish and Irish





## Two halves of the anglophone world



## Some major differences between the hemispheres

---

The northern hemisphere was settled first (after 1600) while the southern hemisphere was settled much later (after 1800). This means that forms of English there are closer to English in south-east England today, e.g. in not having syllable-final /-r/ in words like *car* or *card*.

Other major differences between the two hemispheres involve the pronunciation of vowels, e.g. the short front vowels (as in *bad*, *bed*, *bid*) have a raised pronunciation whereas the long vowels and diphthongs (as in *tape*, *time*, *toy*, *taught*) tend to be lowered and/or retracted.



## Scenarios for the English language overseas

---

Several factors are responsible for the types of English which have arisen outside Europe during the colonial period, roughly from the early 17th to the late 19th century. Early settlers went to the New World, first to the Caribbean then to eastern Canada and the later United States (to form the original 13 colonies). Some people left the British Isles of their own free will, some were forcibly deported, some served as indentured labourers.

At the new locations, settlers sometimes mixed with indigenous peoples, with other settlers or with slaves from Africa. This mixture had an effect on the forms of English which arose at the new locations.

# The Caribbean Sea with its islands





## Main periods in the history of the Caribbean

---

- **Pre-Columbian Period**  
(before 1492)
- **The Spanish Period**  
(after 1492)
- **British Involvement**  
(from the early 1600s onwards)



## English in the Caribbean area

---

The first Caribbean islands to be settled by the British were St Kitts (1623/4) in the north-east and Barbados (1627) in the south-east corner of the Caribbean Basin. When this island filled up, English-speakers left for other locations, especially for Jamaica after it was taken by the British from the Spanish in 1660.

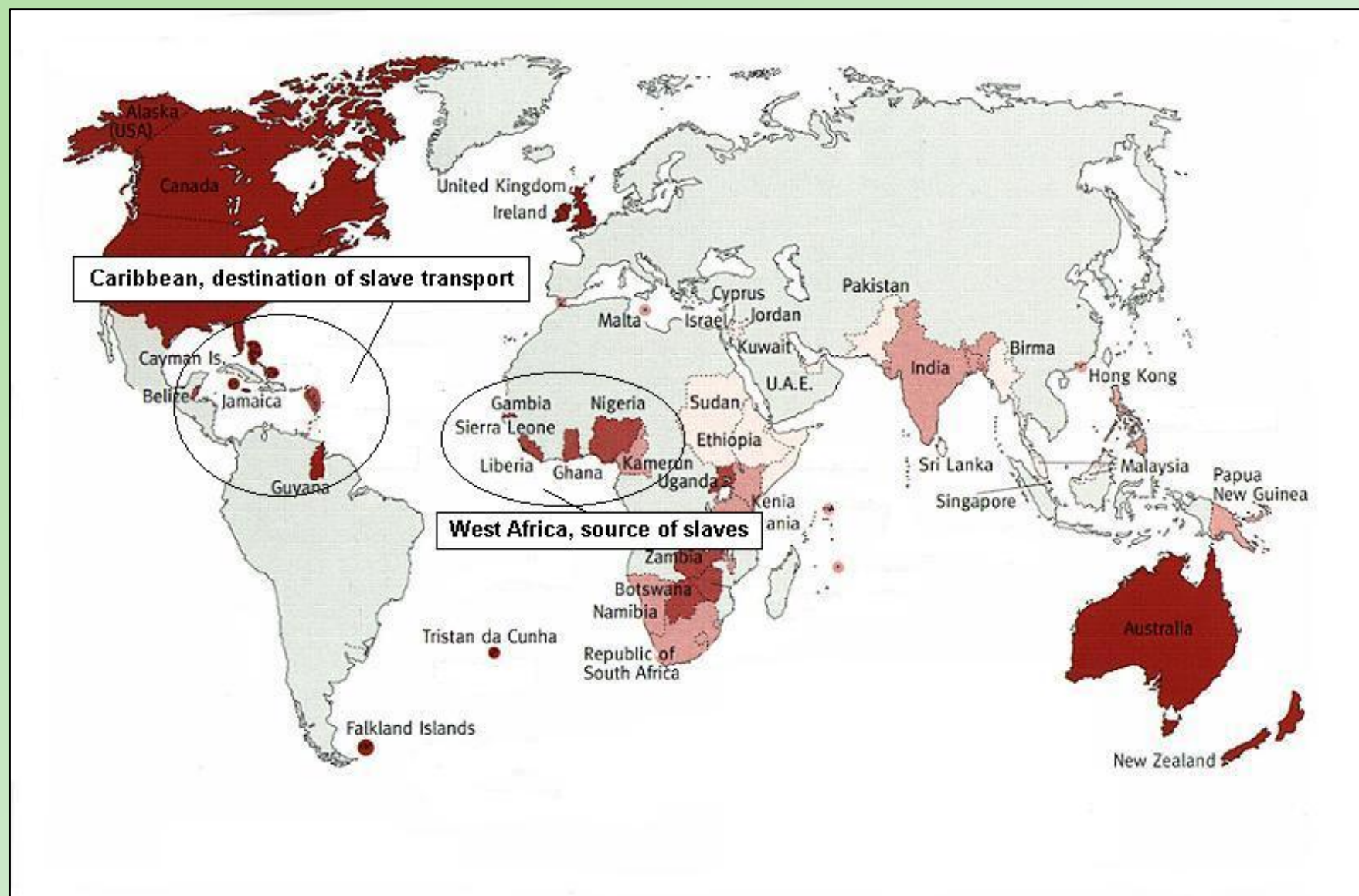
Initially, the Caribbean was populated by whites, during the so-called 'Homestead Phase', later by blacks taken from West Africa as slaves and transported across the Atlantic along the infamous Middle Passage.

Many other smaller islands were populated by English-speakers and many changed hands between the colonial maritime powers, namely England, France, Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands. Most of these islands gain their independence in the mid 20th century.

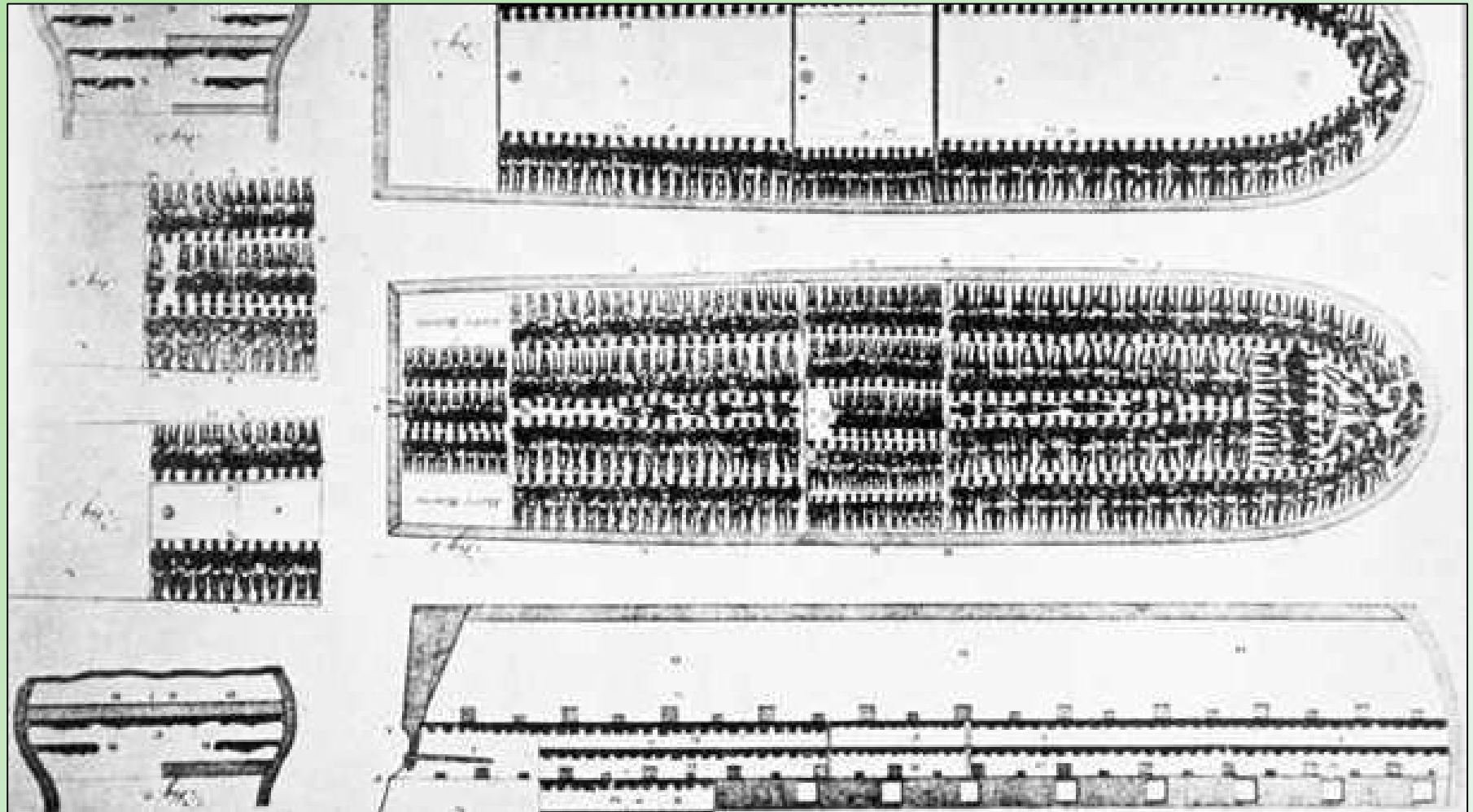
In the late 17th century a number of Caribbean slaves were transported to the south-east of the United States to work on the large cotton plantations. Later slaves were transported directly. The system of slavery lasted until the end of the American Civil War (1860-65).



## Source and destination of slave transportation



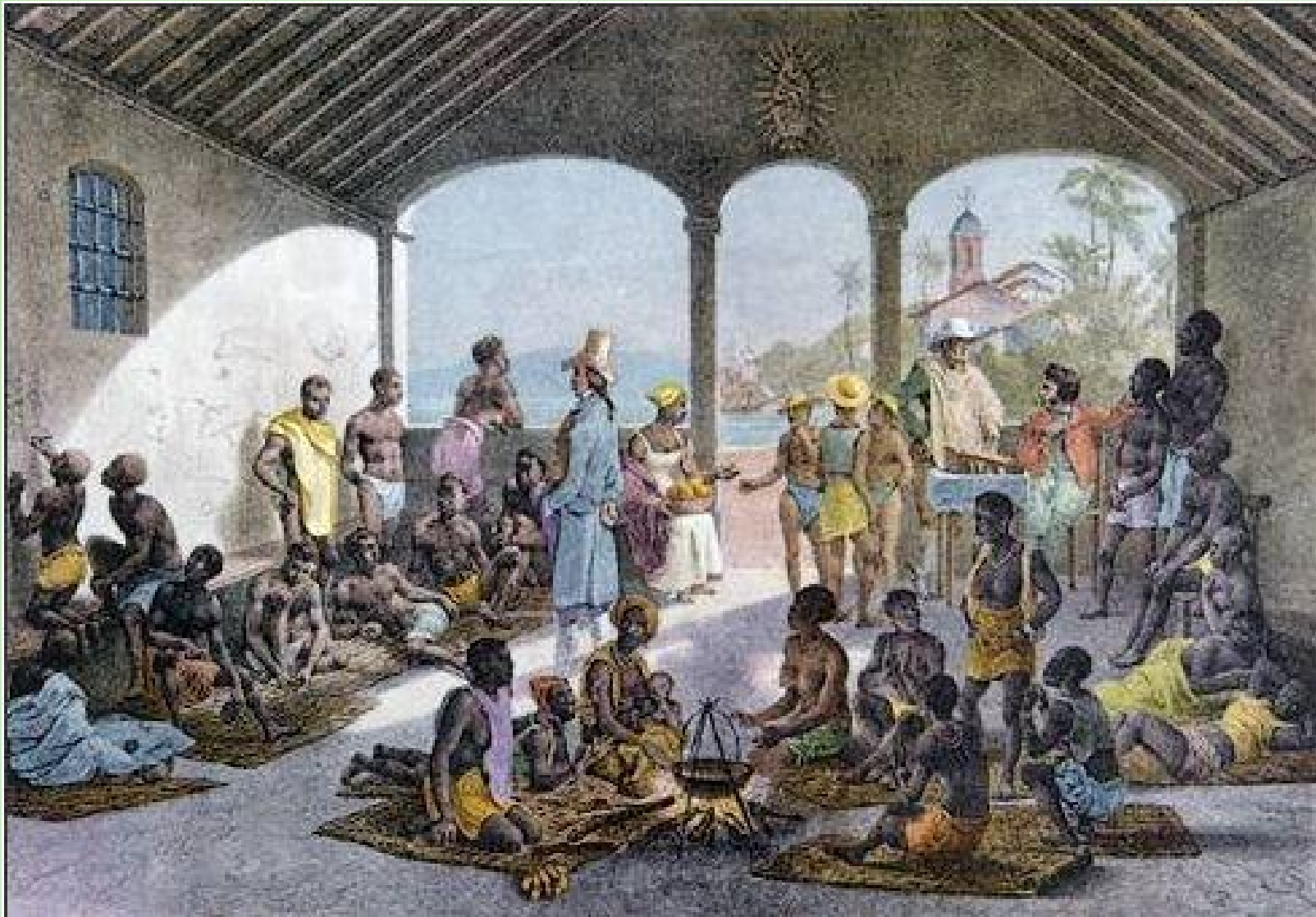
# Slave ship





# Slave market (Caribbean)

---



## Slave auction (southern USA)

---





In the southern United States and on Cuba, the cultivation of tobacco is important. On the smaller Caribbean islands, sugar cane replaced tobacco as the main crop in the 17th century.

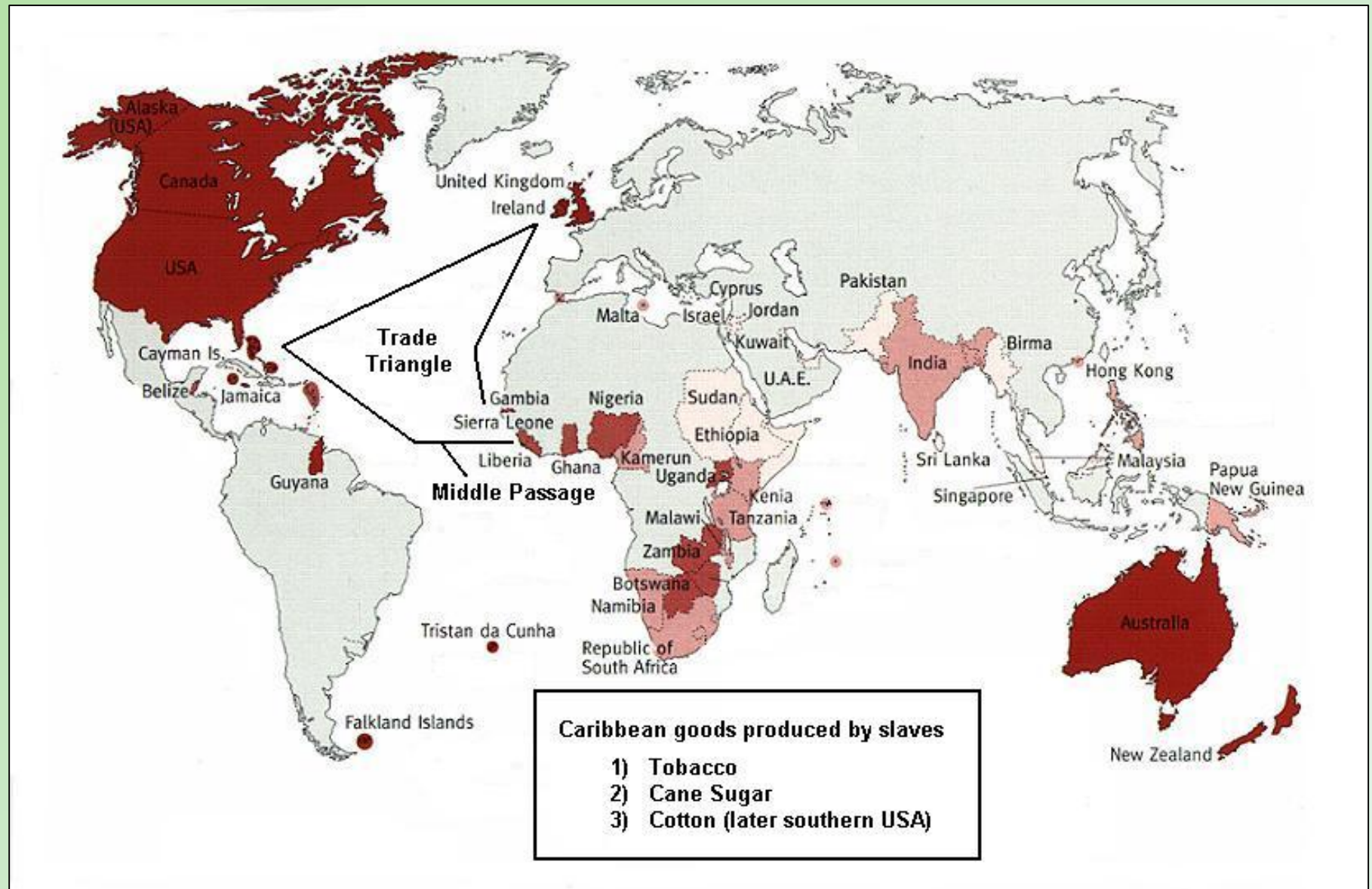


On the various Caribbean islands, the slaves were put to work where sugar cane was grown.



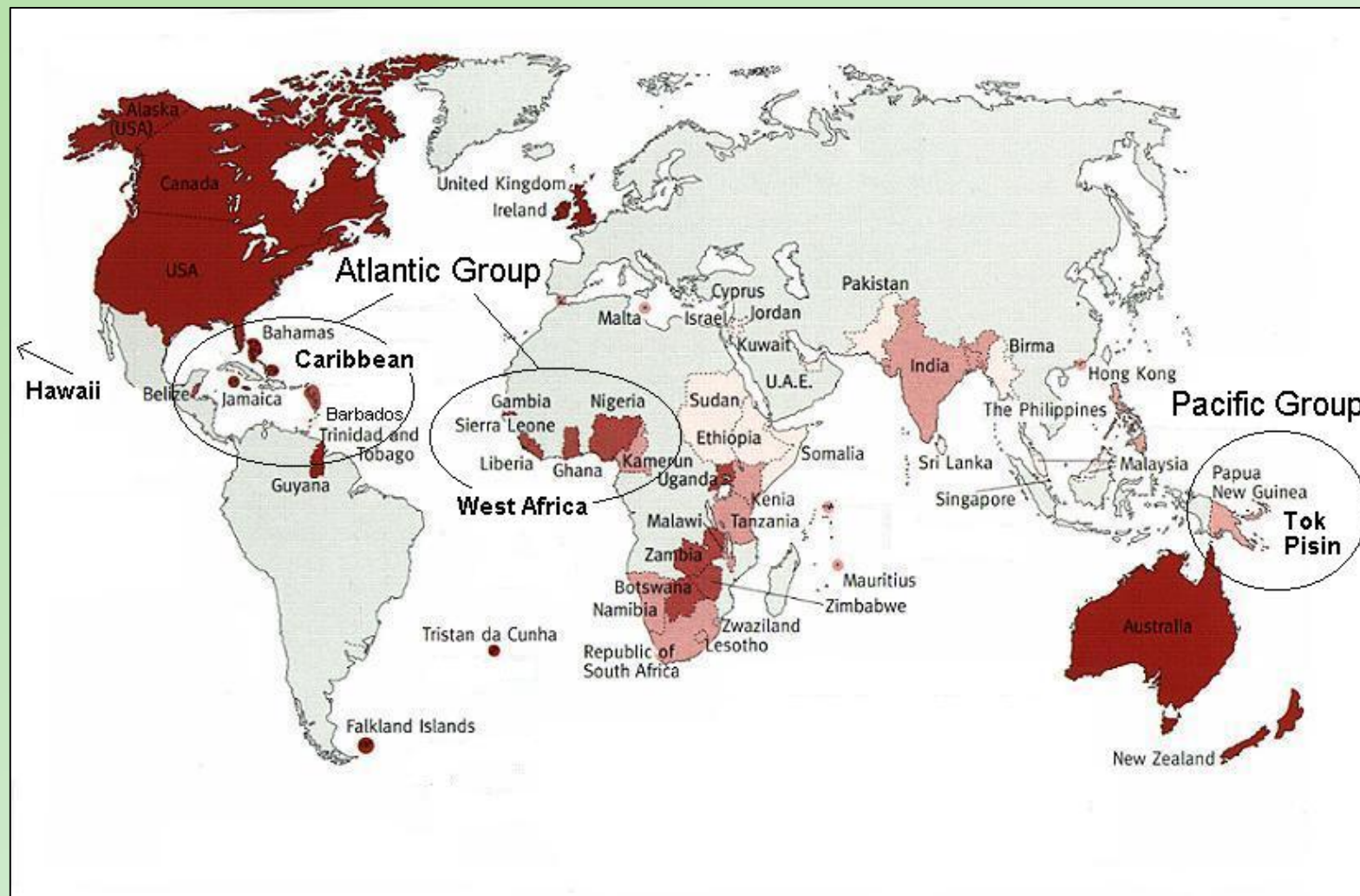


# The Trade Triangle





## Groups of anglophone pidgins and creoles



## Pidgin

A pidgin is a variety which arises from the need to communicate between two communities. A pidgin which has become the mother language of a later generation is termed a creole. Pidgins are not subject to the normalising influence of a standard.

Classically, pidgins arose during trade between European countries and those outside of Europe. The lexicon of a pidgin is usually taken from the European language in question and its grammar from native input (such as the languages of West Africa during the slave trade with the Caribbean and America). The further development of a pidgin is a creole, although this stage does not have to be reached if there is no necessity to develop a native language.

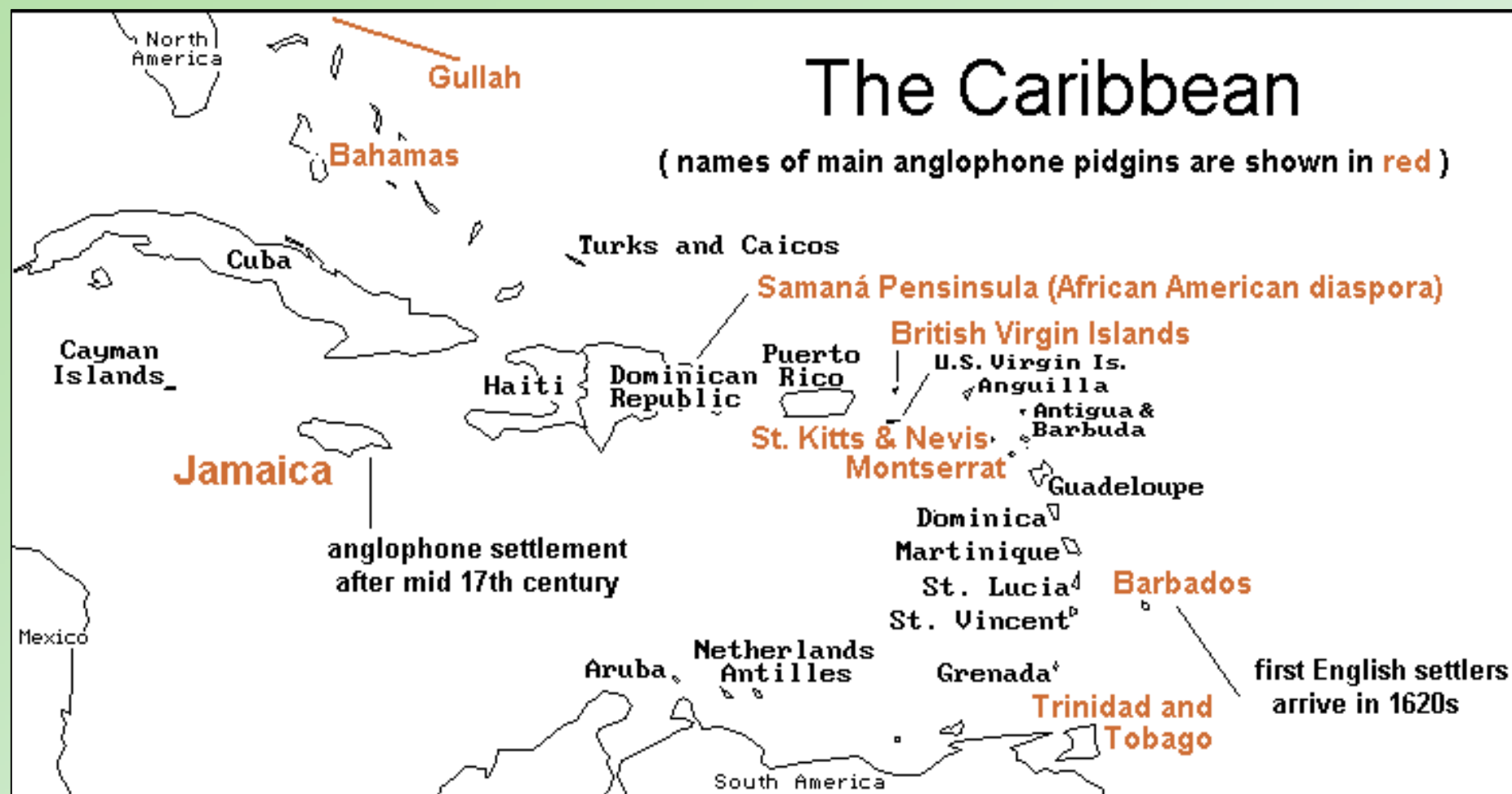
## Creole

A term to describe a pidgin after it has become the mother tongue of a certain population. This development usually implies that the pidgin has become more complex grammatically and has increased its vocabulary in order to deal with the entire set of situations in which a native language is used. A creole may 'invent' its own structures going on an innate blueprint which many linguists assume speakers have from birth

A well-known creole is Tok Pisin, spoken in Papua New Guinea and with official status there. There are several creoles in the Caribbean which derive from earlier pidgins in this region.



# Anglophone locations in the Caribbean





## Anglophone locations in the Caribbean

Greater Antilles

Lesser Antilles

The Leeward Islands

The Windward Islands

Other islands

The Caribbean Rim

## Two significant anglophone locations





# Barbados



# The settlement of Barbados

The English took control of the small island of Barbados in the south-east of the Caribbean in 1627. The first decades of their presence there are term the *homestead phase* because there only whites from the British Isles went to the island.

Working in the fields in the tropical climate proved difficult for the British and Irish indentured labourers (people bound to work for some years to defray the cost of passage). The British then decided to capture natives in West Africa and transport them to the Caribbean and use them as slave labour on the plantations. This happened in the later 17<sup>th</sup> century and afterwards.

# English on Barbados

English on Barbados developed out of transported varieties from the British Isles and later came under the influence of varieties which were created by Africans who were kept on the island as slaves.

Because of the small size of the island many people left and moved to other locations in the Caribbean carrying their forms of English with them. Some went to larger islands like Trinidad and Jamaica, some up the south-east coast of America, some indeed to the area of the Guyanas on the northern coast of South America.

These movements have meant that Barbadian English has had a significant influence on the formation of other varieties of English in the Caribbean region.





# Jamaica



# Jamaica

# English in Jamaica

The English language in Jamaica has a history which reaches back to the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century when the English wrenched the island from the Spanish.

A creole developed on the plantations of Jamaica and spread to the entire country where it is still used as a vernacular medium.

There are also other forms which are closer to more standard varieties of English. Linguists speak of a basilect (the creole), the mesolect (a middle form) and the acrolect (the form closest to standard English).

# The Spanish Empire



Flag of New Spain  
(Cross of Burgundy)



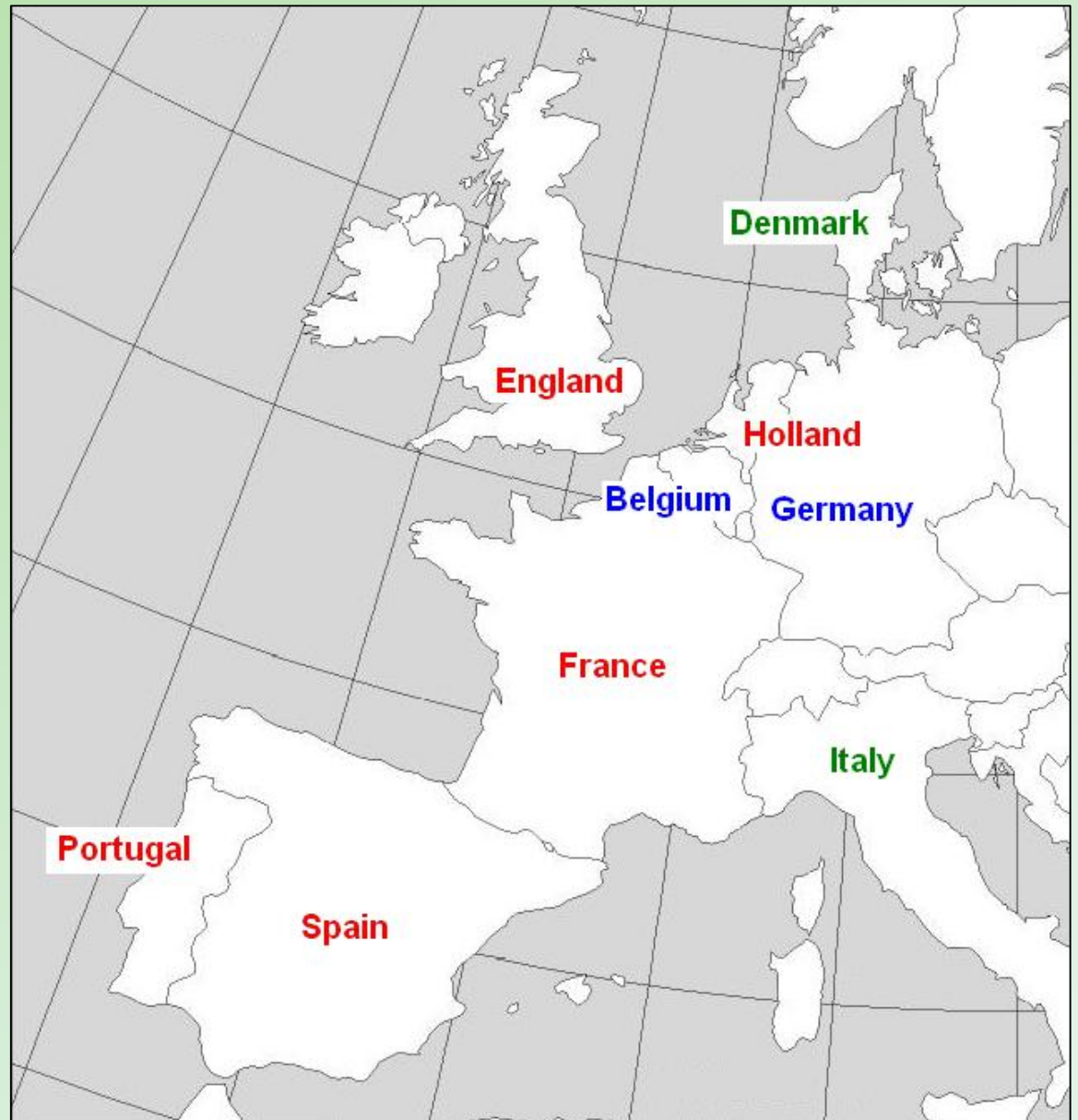


## The European colonial powers

**Red:** The five early powers (15c/16c onwards), mainly involved in the Carribean and South America, but also Asia.

**Blue:** Later powers (19c), mainly involved in Africa and South-West Pacific.

**Green:** Involved later (Italy) or not significantly at an earlier date (Denmark).



## Spain in the late 15th century

Isabella I of Castile and married Ferdinand V of Aragón in 1469 to become the couple known as the Reinos Católicos and joint rulers of their source regions in the 1470s.

Various events took place in their reigns, notably the Inquisition (1478-) and the Cortes de Toledo consolidating royal power in Castile.

A ten-year war against Grenada (the last Moorish stronghold in Spain) ended with its fall in 1492 and the subsequent conversion and or expulsion of both the Jews and Muslims.

In this same year, Isabella granted support to a project by an Italian living in Spain, called Cristoforo Colombo (Cristóbal Colón), a seemingly minor matter.

The Iberian peninsula and the north-west of Africa in the mid 15th century





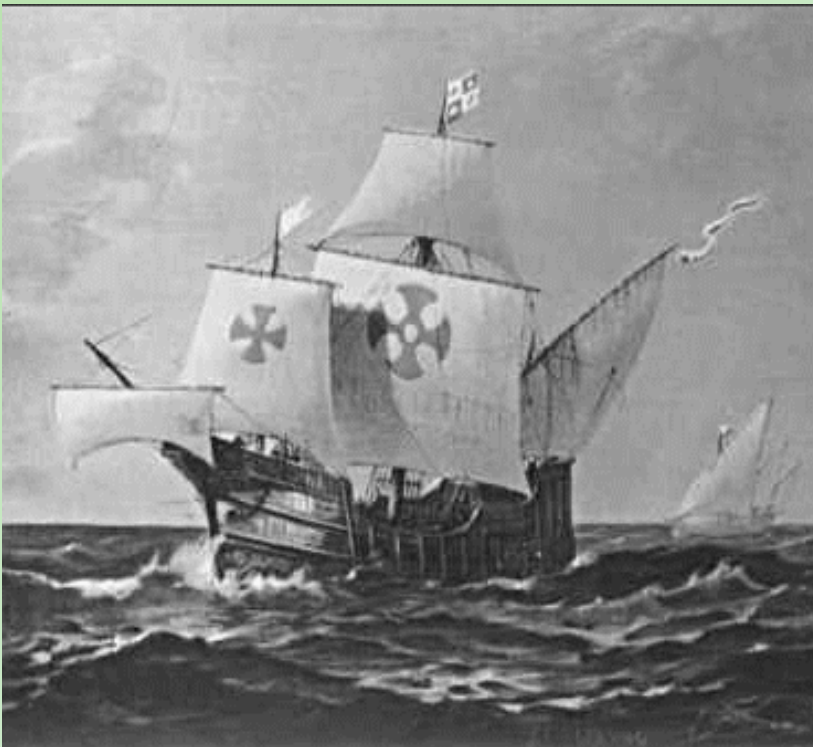
A detail from Hans Memling's 'The Fall of Man' depicting a woman, likely Eve, seated and reading a book. She wears a crown and a patterned dress with a dark collar and a red sash. Her expression is contemplative. To her left, a figure in a red robe is partially visible. The background is dark and indistinct.



European involvement with the Caribbean began in 1492 when Christopher Columbus arrived in the Caribbean, landing on Cuba and the island of Hispaniola (from Española) on his quest for a shorter route to India. Hence the inaccurate but popular term *West Indies* for the Caribbean.



Columbus sailed with three ships, the main Santa Maria and the smaller Niña and Pinta



Columbus takes possession of land in the Caribbean (later romantic picture)



# The Voyages of Columbus to the New World





# The Voyages of Columbus to the New World



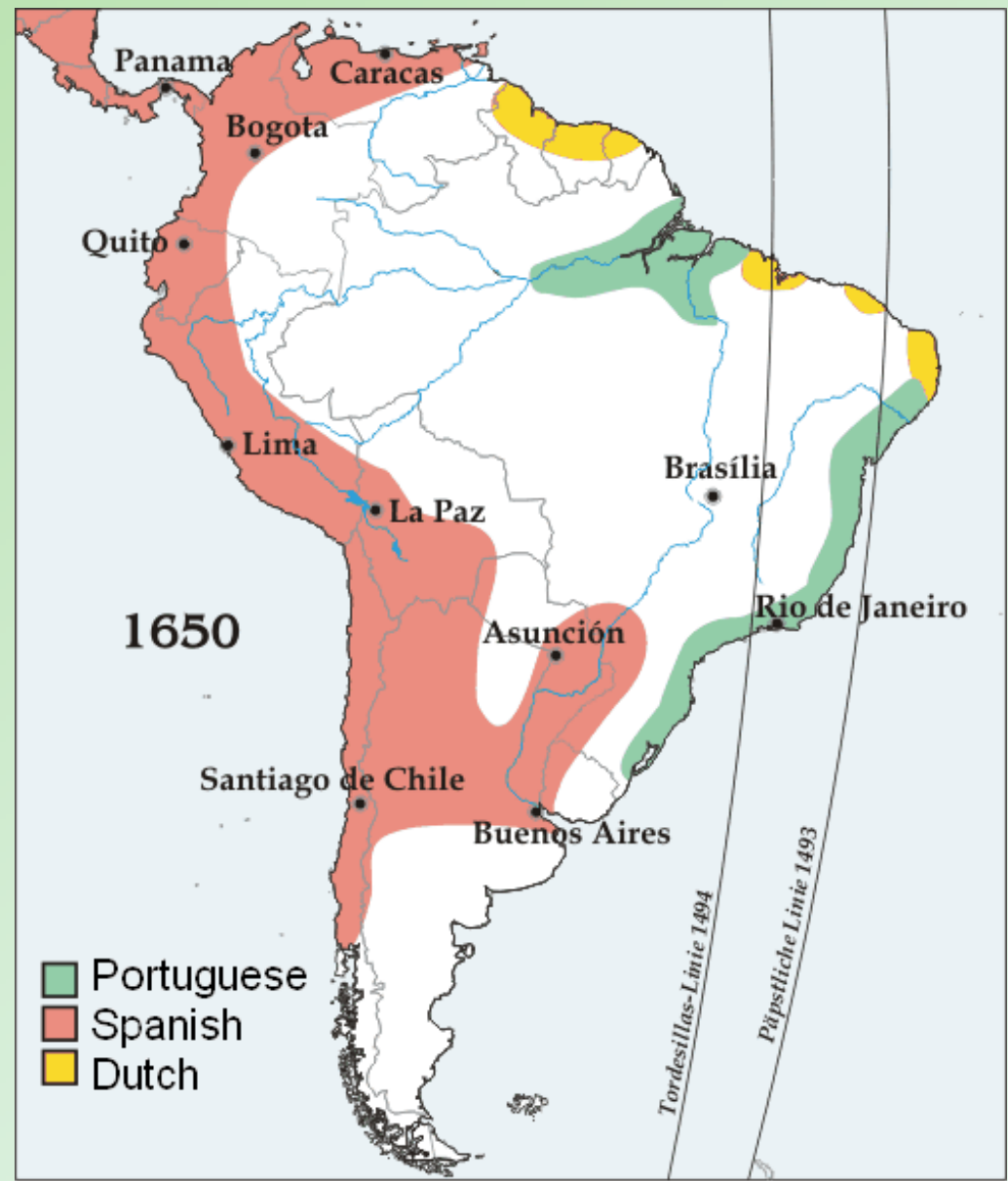
Cortés, Hernán (1485-1547), Spanish explorer and conqueror of the Aztec empire in Mexico under Montezuma II (1519). He built up Mexico City on the ruins of the old capital, Tenochtitlán. Cortés also explored the Pacific coast claiming it for Spanish crown. He also became governor of New Spain (*Virreinato de Nueva España*) in 1523.



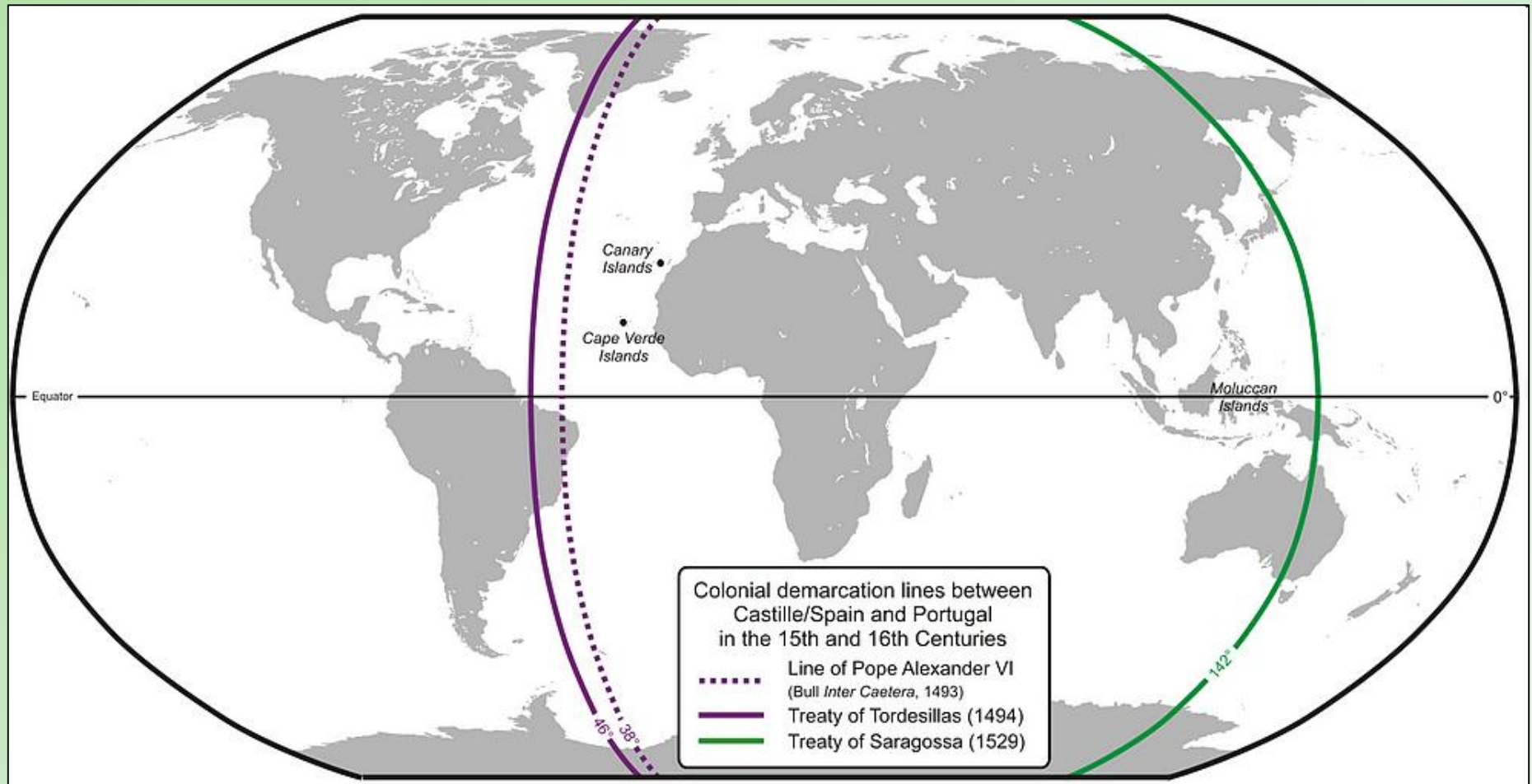


Pizarro, Francisco (c. 1476-1541)

Explorer parts of the New World and laid the basis for Spain's claim to the Pacific Ocean in 1513. In 1529 he was granted the right, by Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, to conquer and rule Peru. He conquered the Incas and founded Peru in 1535. In 1542 the Virreinato de Peru was formed.

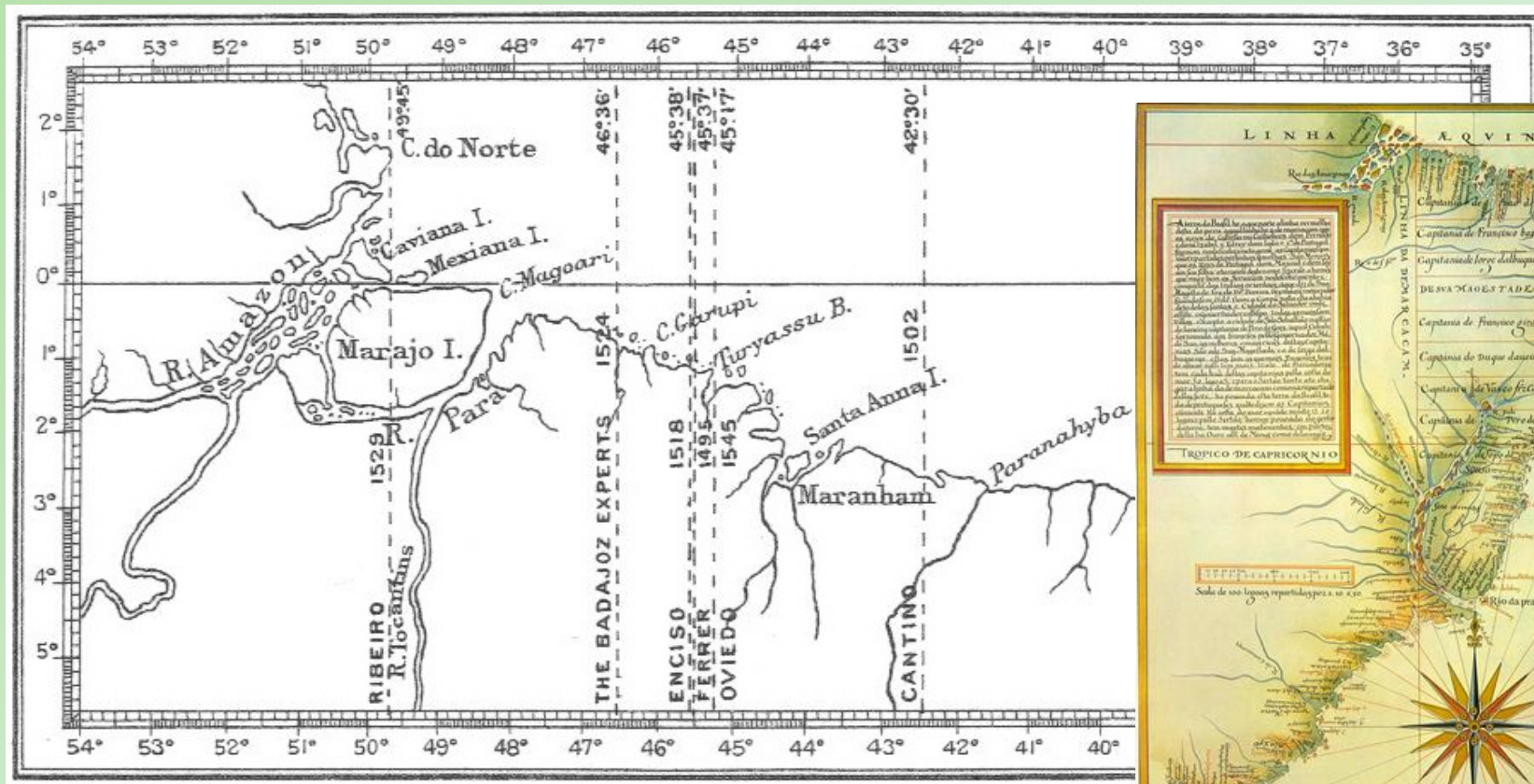


# Lines of division between Spain and Portugal





# Lines laid down by the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) and the Treaty of Zaragoza (1529). Basic result: Spanish to the West in South America, Portuguese to the East.



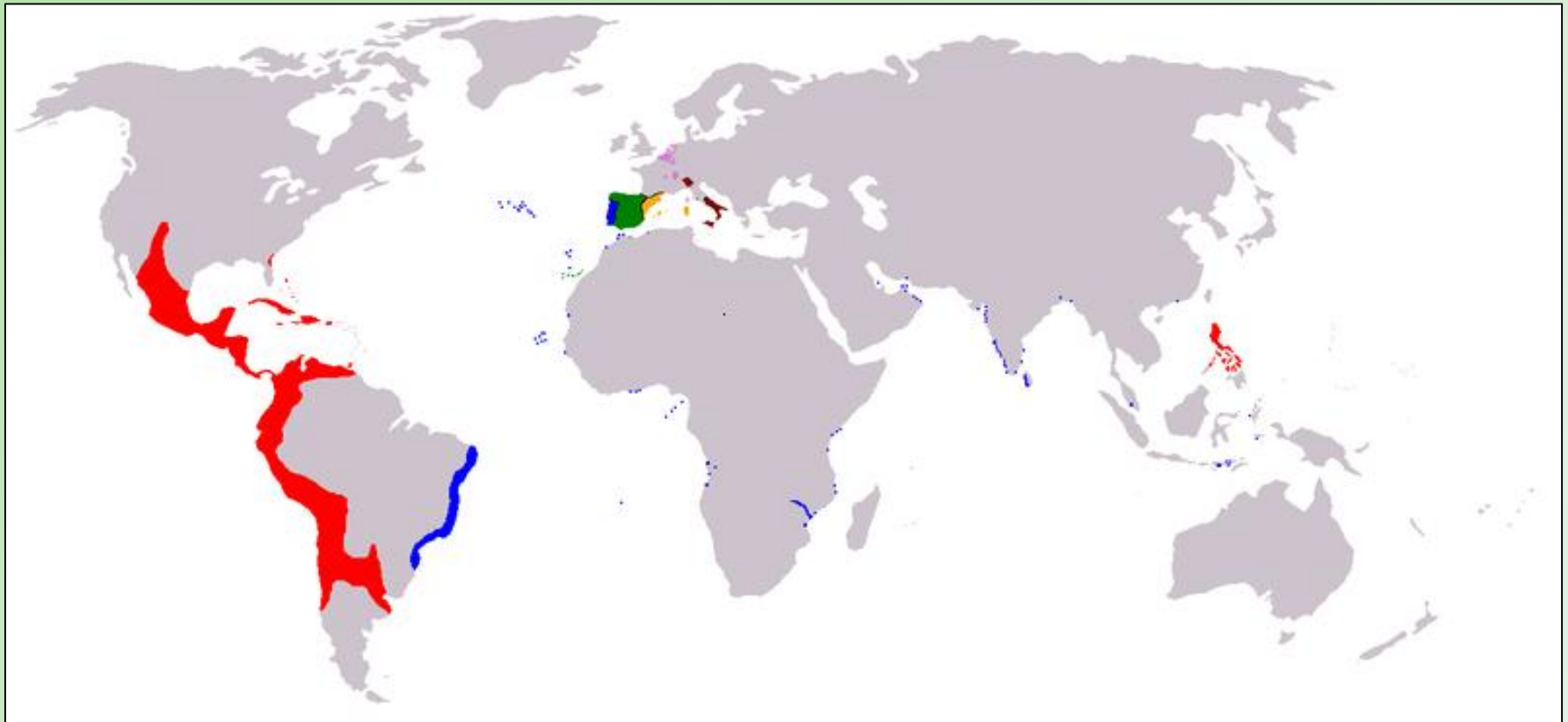
## Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)

Signed by King John II of Portugal and Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile.

The demarcation line ran from north to south 100 leagues (about 483 km) west of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands. All new lands lying east of this line were to belong to Portugal; all those to the west to Spain.



## Spanish (red) and Portuguese (blue) possessions in the sixteenth century



## Later Portuguese overseas territories





Central  
and South  
America  
at the  
beginning  
of the 19th  
century



Spanish and Portuguese dominate South America excepts for the Guyanas:

- 1) Guyana (former British Guyana)
- 2) Suriname (former Dutch Guyana)
- 3) French Guiana



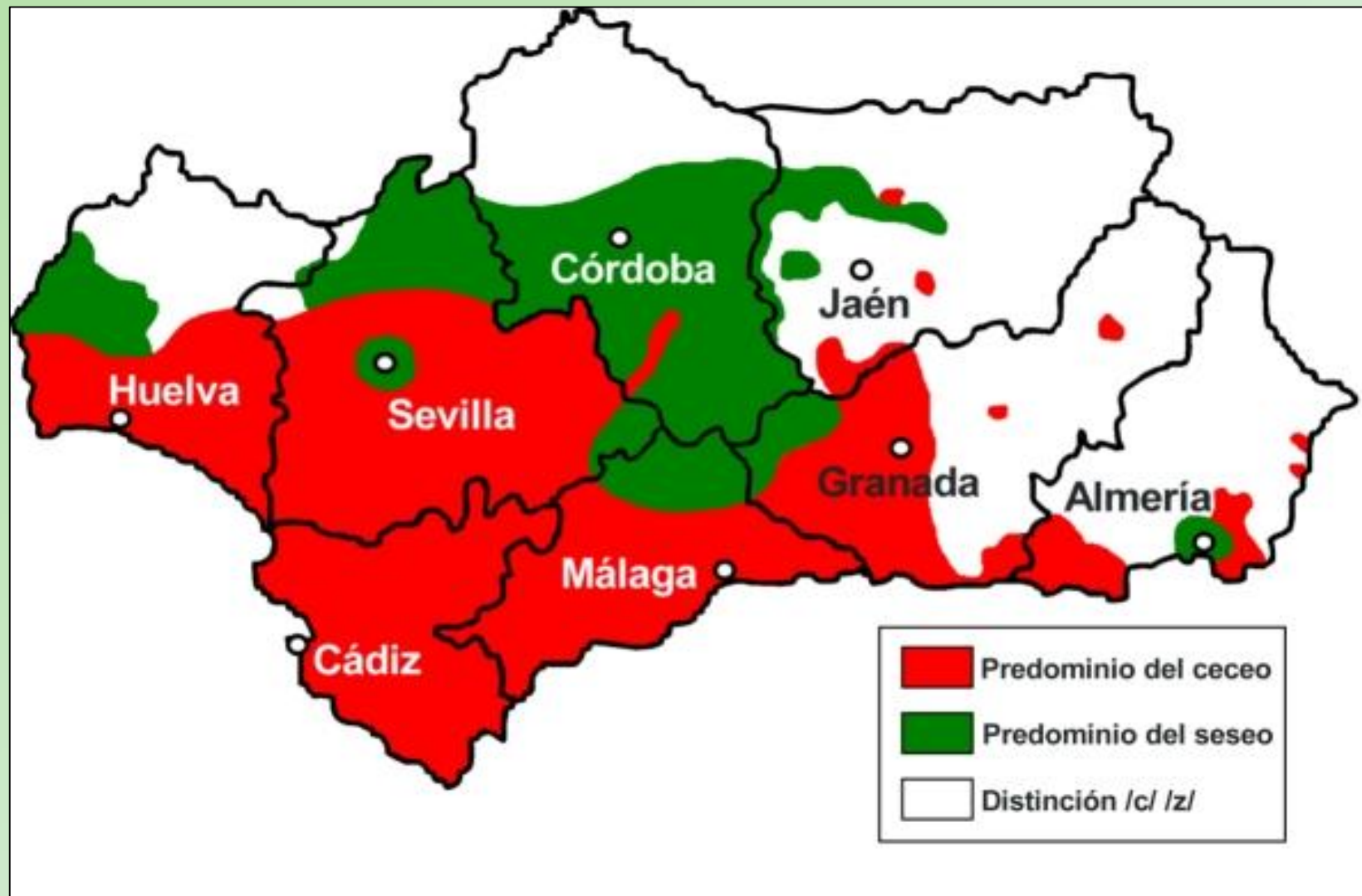
# The development of colonial Spanish in the New World

# Colonial Spanish: 'Out of Andalucía'





## The source of Colonial Spanish: Ceceo versus Seseo



Most Spaniards involved in (early) colonialism left from the region of Seville and either came from the hinterland or spent time there before leaving for the New World, via Seville. However, leaders of expeditions may have come from other areas, e.g. Cortés and Pizarro were both from Extremadura. Seville was the center of the early colonial trade as the Guadalquivir was navigable through Las Marismas up to the city itself.

Later Cádiz was important as a port as were others in regions outside of Andalucía, e.g. A Coruña in Galicia or various Basque ports.

Another important point is that the early emigration to central and south America was through the Caribbean and early features of Spanish there were probably continued in the mainland of the Americas.



## Some assumptions about the rise of colonial varieties

- 1) The early forms of a language taken to new locations are most important as they determine the path of development for the language there (called the 'Founder Principle' in pidgin and creole studies).
- 2) Input features which are associated with a written standard tend not to be favoured at the new locations. For instance, the loss of final /-s/ in southern Spain is also characteristic of New World Spanish, e.g. *dos chicos* is [do tʃiko]. Note this loss of inflection does not lead to a decrease in comprehensibility (linguistically speaking the inflectional /s/ is redundant).
- 3) Phonetic forms which are maximally perceptual are favoured in dialect contact and second-language scenarios. For instance, the alveolar fricatives /s, z/ are favoured over the dental fricatives /θ, ð/ as they are more clearly audible. This fact would have supported the survival of seseo over ceceo in New World Spanish, e.g. *cerveza* is [serveza] and not [θerbeθa].

## Other features of New World Spanish

- 1) Other features of Spanish have survived overseas, e.g. *yeísmo* where former palatal /ʎ/ became /j/, e.g. *calle* [kaje]. There would be no preference of /ʎ/ over /j/. Further developments can, and indeed have, taken place in the New World, e.g. /j/ has become /ɟ/ in some areas.
- 2) Overseas forms of Spanish have developed their own vocabulary from native words (typically for flora and fauna) or from the extension of existing Spanish words to new meanings, e.g. *chifla* 'whistle' to 'bad mood' in Mexican Spanish. In other cases one has creations when the European word was probably not known, e.g. European Spanish *las fresas* 'strawberries', New World Spanish *las frutillas* 'small fruit'.



## Later Spanish in the New World

After the 15th century – *El Siglo de Oro* – Spanish continued to expand in Central and South America with the establishment of the *Virreinato de Nueva Granada* (far north of South America) the *Virreinato de Peru* (north-west of South America) and the *Virreinato del Rio de la Plata* (later the *Intendencia de Buenos Aires* with expansions to the south).



## Later Spanish in the New World

These extensions into South America happened in the 17th and 18th centuries after the basic contours of New World Spanish were already established. The large numbers of later emigrants, e.g. Germans, Italians, etc. to Argentina did not re-shape New World Spanish.



## A comparison with overseas forms of English

- 1) Colonial English shows some similarities with colonial Spanish, e.g. the dental fricatives of both languages have not been continued in the Caribbean (or the Central and South America for Spanish), most probably for the same reasons.
- 2) Many inflections of English disappeared, in both dialects and vernacular forms of overseas English, e.g. the plural after numerals as in *twenty pound* instead of *twenty pounds* (elimination of redundancy).

However, there are major differences in the colonial history of both languages.

## Differences between colonial English and colonial Spanish

- 1) English: In the early days of colonialism substantial numbers of English people settled in the new colonies (the Caribbean). This pattern continued well into the 19th century in other colonies.

Spanish: Large numbers of people did not move to the New World.

- 2) English: Many groups left England and Ireland because they wished to gain religious freedom (different sects of Protestantism).

Spanish: The entire colonial population was Catholic so religion was not an issue.

- 3) English: Emigration often took place for economic reasons, e.g. during and after the Great Famine in Ireland and similar events in Scotland.

Spanish: This situation never applied in Spain which was a much larger country with fewer people and so no population congestion.



## Differences between colonial English and colonial Spanish

- 4) English: Due to the slave trade, many pidgin forms of English arose which on the early plantations became creoles.

Spanish: No pidgins arose, though mixtures of Spanish and Portuguese, such as *fronterizo* in northern Uruguay did develop.

- 5) English: Very diverse forms of English were transported, from different regions of England, from Scotland and from Ireland (all in the early phase).

Spanish: A predominance of southern Spanish applied to early forms of colonial Spanish.

## Differences between colonial English and colonial Spanish

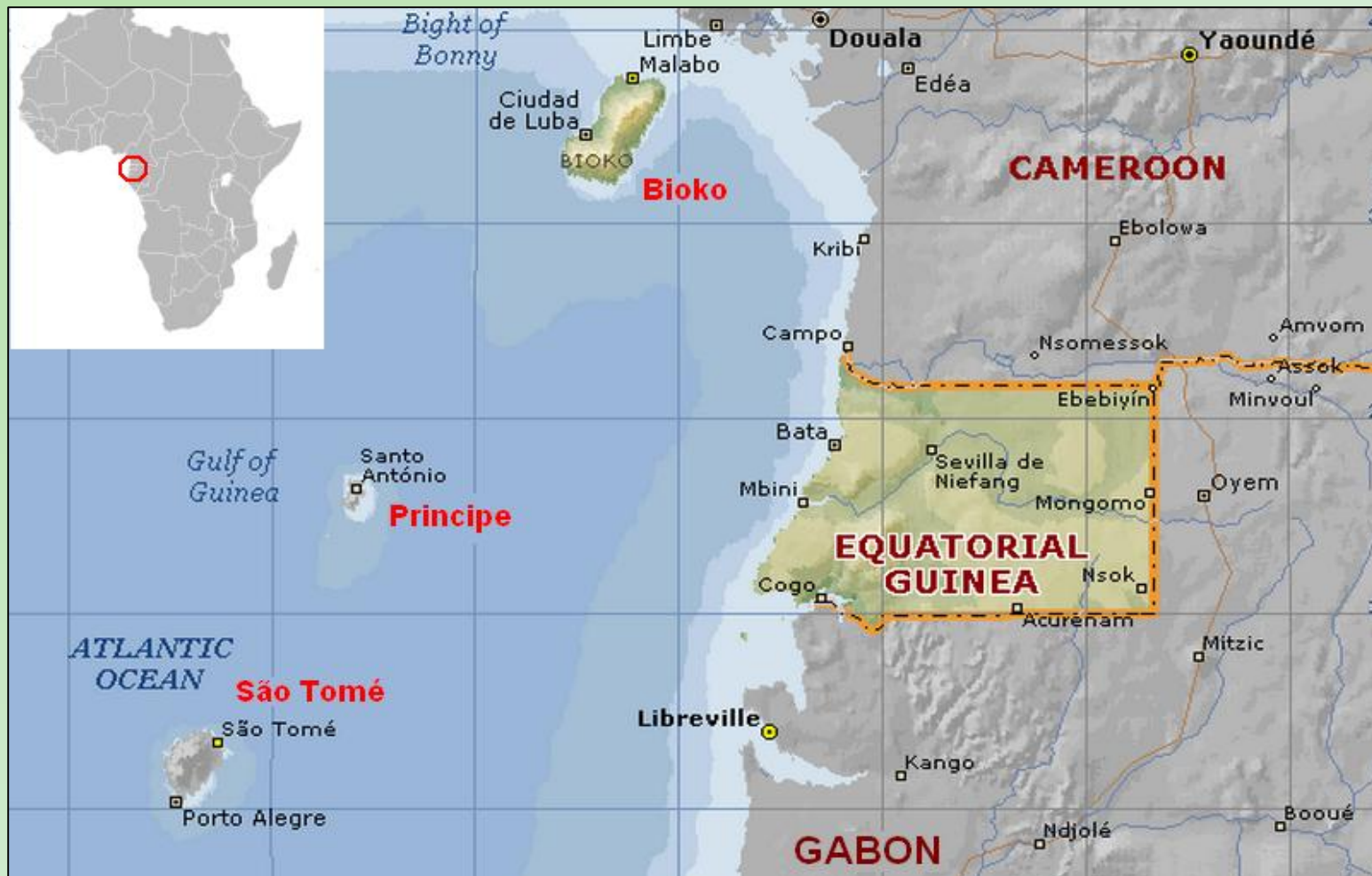
- 6) English colonialism continued well into the 19th century with the peak of the British Empire at the end of this century.

Spanish: The imperial enterprise began to decline with the defeat of the Spanish Armada of Philip II by the British in 1588. For instance, Argentina, which as a colony went back to the founding of Buenos Aires by Pedro de Mendoza in 1536, claimed independence from Spain in 1816, a much earlier date than any comparable event in the British Empire (apart from the United States in 1776).



# Spanish outside the New World

In the 1840s the Spanish settled this region which later became known as Spanish Guinea. It became fully independent in 1973. Spanish is the official language, however, an English- and a Portuguese-based pidgin are spoken on the islands off Equatorial Guinea (on Bioko and on São Tomé & Príncipe respectively).





The Philippines was the only Spanish colony in Asia, established in 1542 after Spain asserted its claim over Portugal. The islands were named after Philip II (1527-1598) who was later to become king (1556). Manila was established as the centre of the Spanish colonial presence in 1572. By the Treaty of Paris (1898), Spain ceded the Philippines to the USA for \$20m.



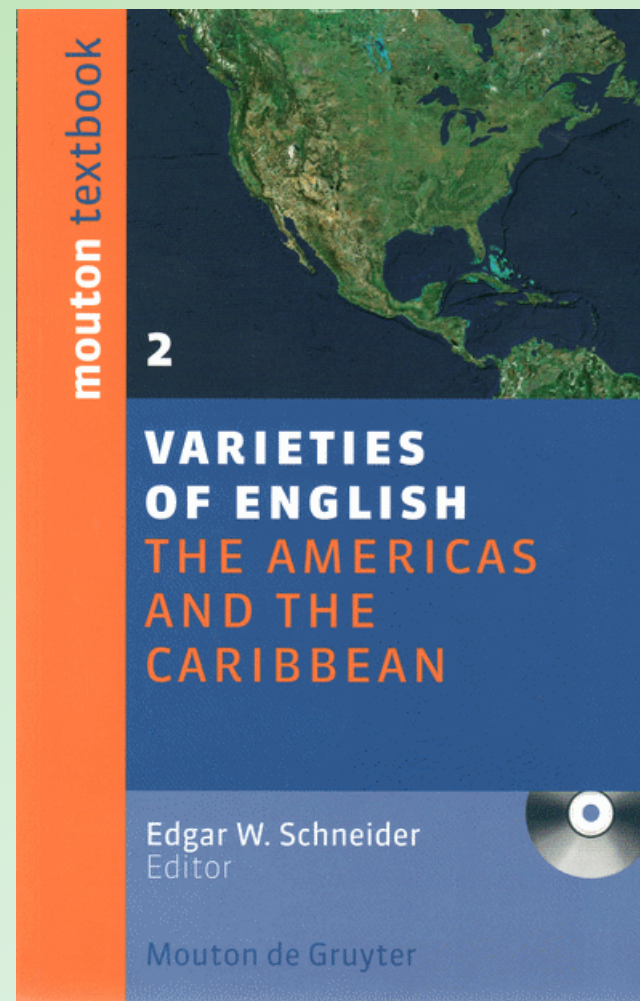
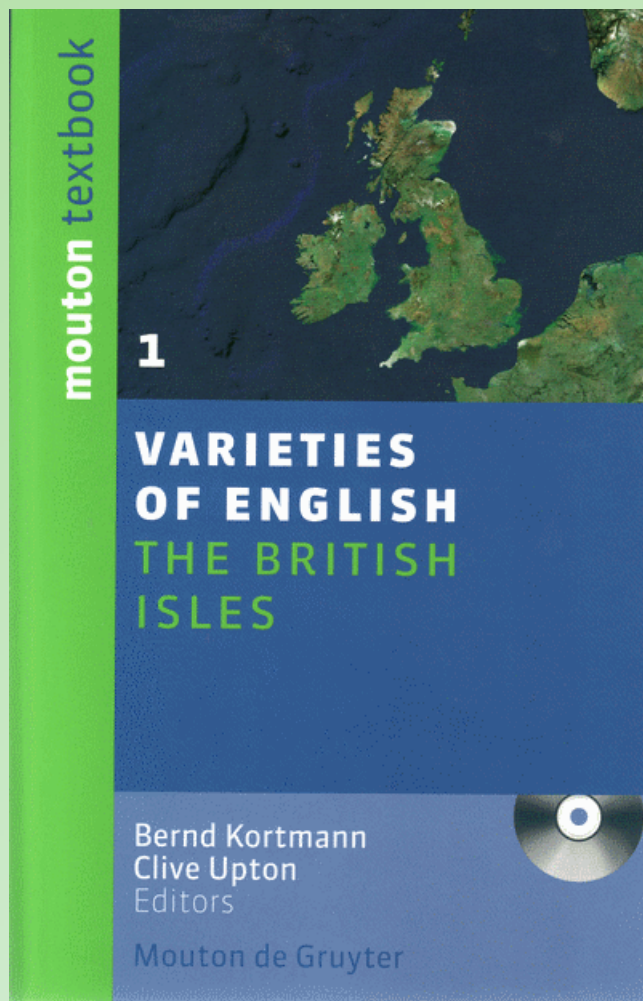
# Literature on the history of Spanish

Penny, Ralph 2002 [1991] *A history of the Spanish language*.  
Second edition. Cambridge: University Press.

John M. Lipski 1994. *Latin American Spanish*. London:  
Longman.

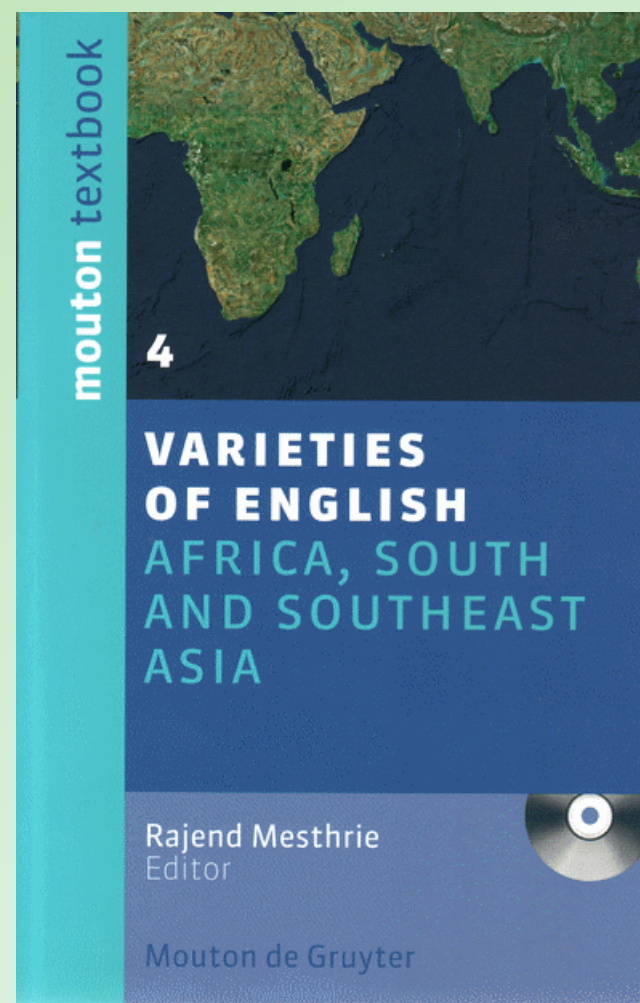
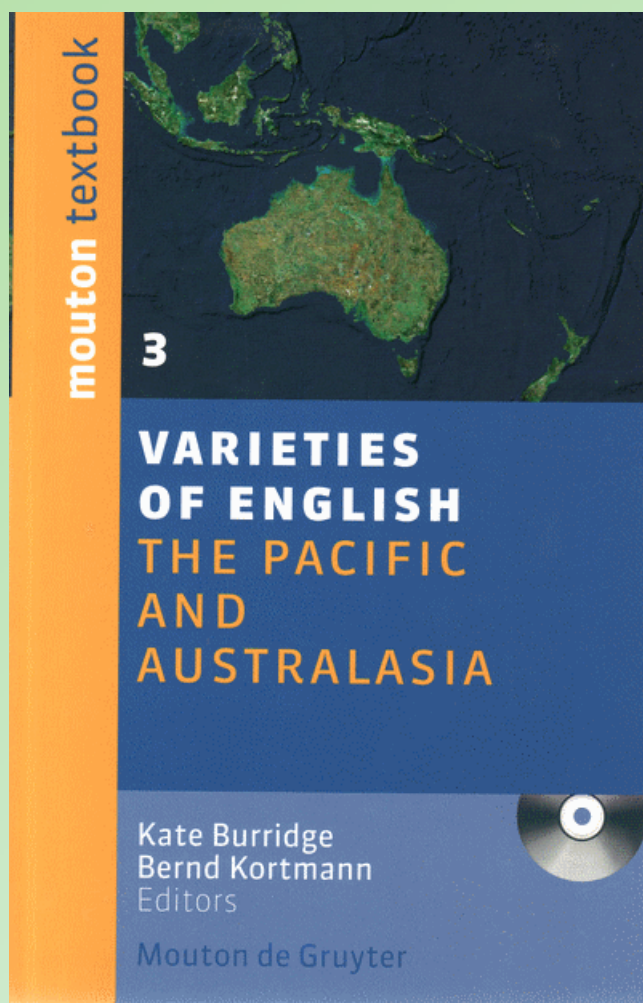
John M. Lipski 2008. *Varieties of Spanish in the United States*.  
Washington, D. C.: Georgetown University Press.

# Literature on Varieties of English



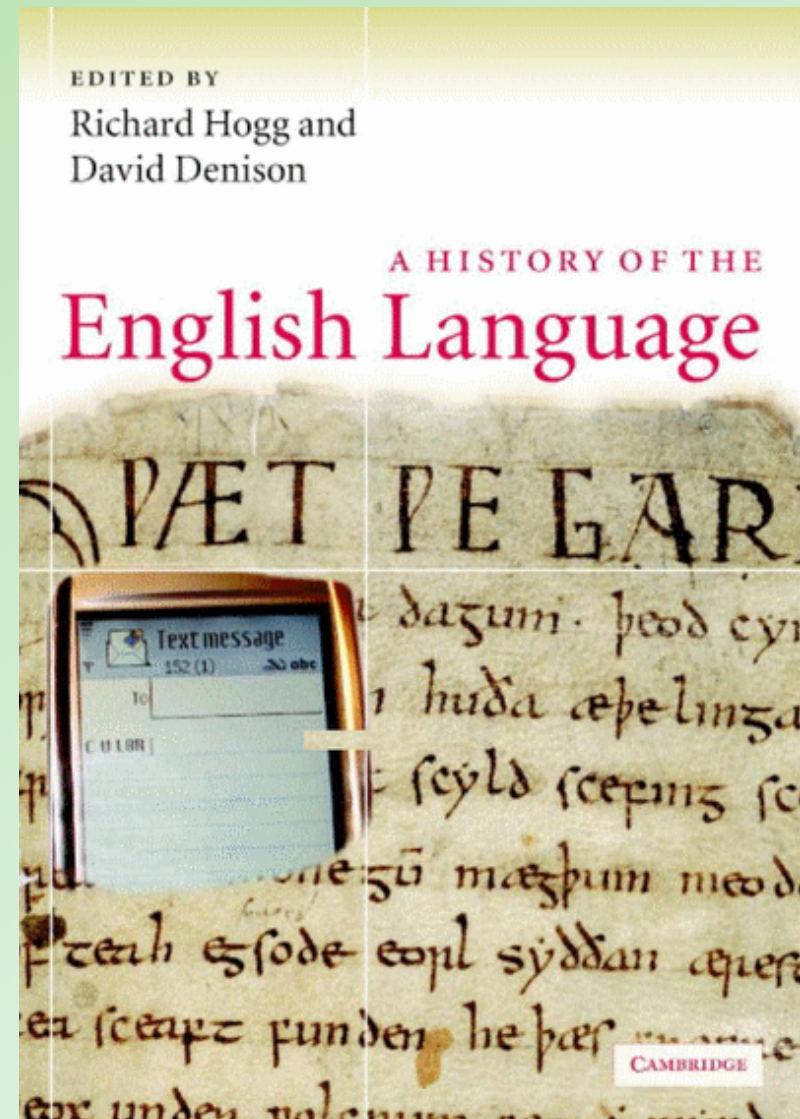
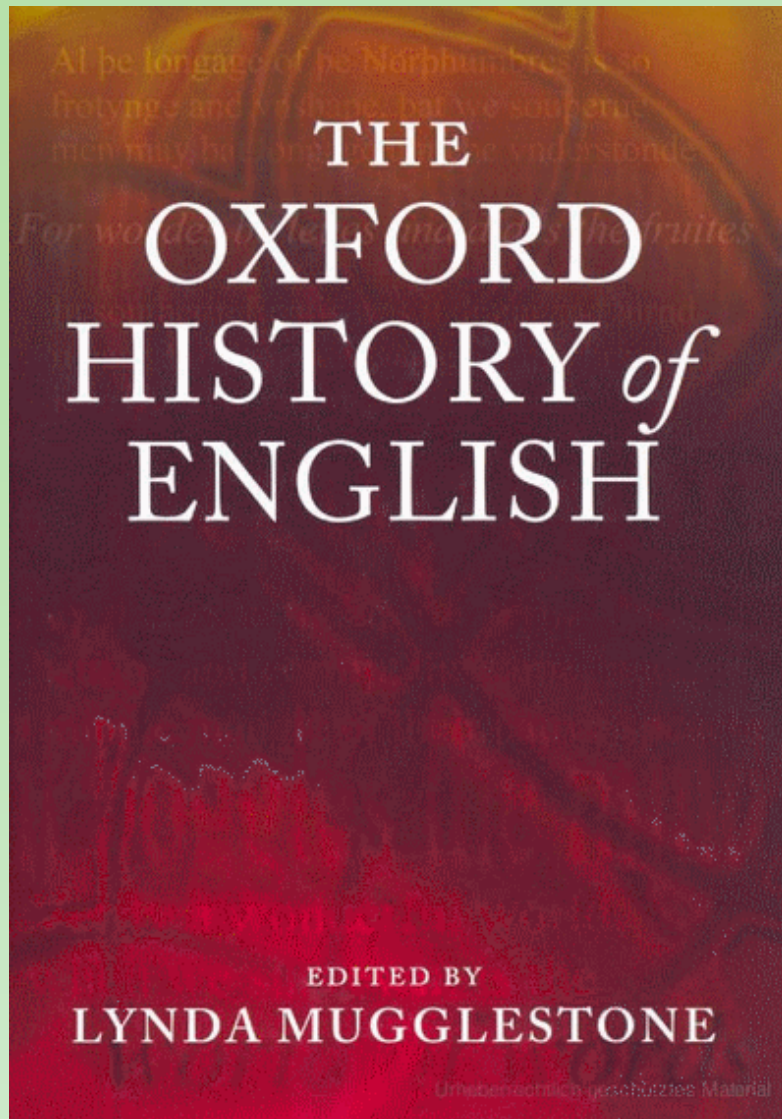


# Literature on Varieties of English

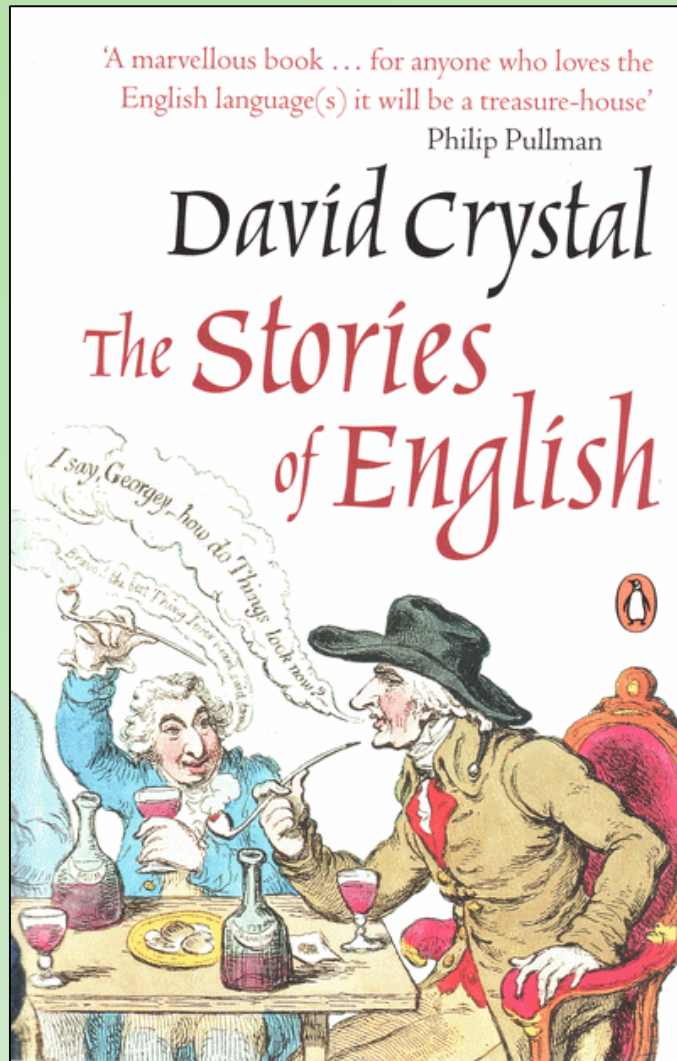




# Conventional histories of English

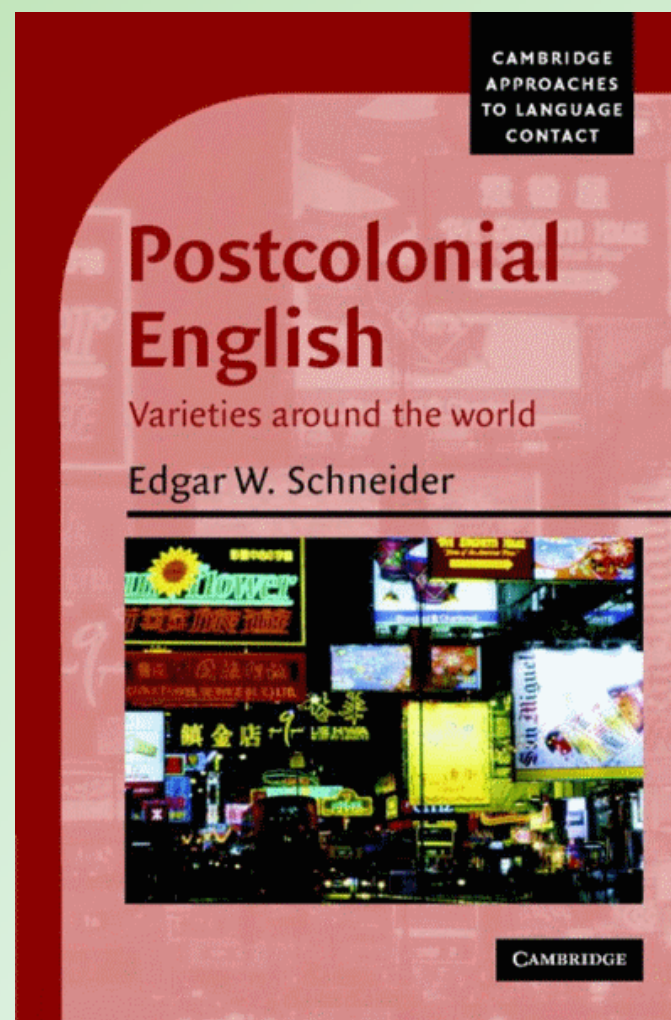
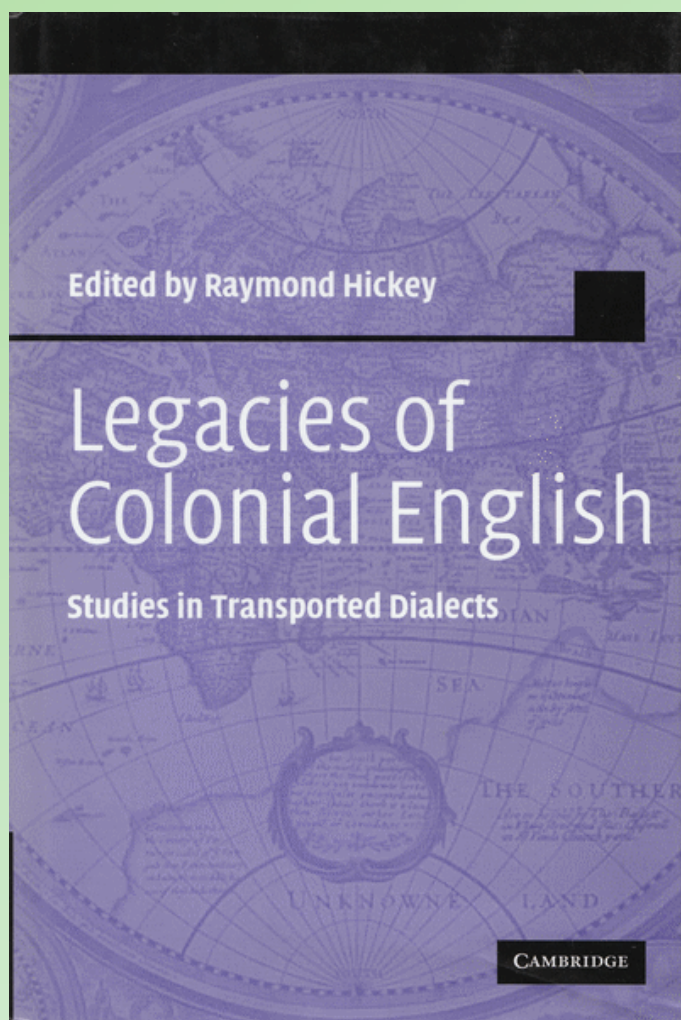


# More inclusive overviews of English





# Literature on the spread of English



# Literature on World Englishes

