

Britain and the Brave New World

Fall 2002

Robert Ehrlich rehrlich@udel.edu

Examine the impact of the New World (chiefly the colonies that form the United States and the United States itself) on British interests. We will look at the political, economic and public interest spheres from a British viewpoint. The class will cover the period from 1492 until 1865.

Class outline at <http://u.pc.cd/1287>

Tentative Class Outline

Topics

Roughly in chronological order.

1. Age of exploration. Economic interests.
Columbus, Cabot, Frobisher, Hawkins and Drake.
2. Colonial Age Economic interest and completion with Spain. First colonies
Different modes of setting up colonies. Expectations of English investors. Failure of Scotland. South Sea Bubble.
3. Colonial Age. Competition with the Dutch. Managing colonies.
4. Colonial Age. Competition with France.
5. Revolution. Assertion of British power leads to rebellion.
6. Negotiating Independence, Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812;
7. Florida, Border disputes
Aroostook War.
8. British Travelers assess the United States
Frances Trollope, Charles Dickens and others
9. Britain, America: Slavery and Mexico;
Border Conflicts (Oregon)
10. Commerce and Commercial Rivalry
US technology at the Great Exhibition of 1851
11. Britain and the Civil War
12. Classes 12 and 13 depend on wishes of class members.
Canada after the US Civil war -dominion status