Mercantilism and Colonialism
Mercantilism

- Mercantilism: a belief that wealth = power
- Wealth is measured esp. in terms of gold and silver bullion
- Countries need colonies to gain wealth
- Colonies not only provide much-needed resources (raw materials) but they also serve as markets
- Colonies exist to serve mother country
- Spain takes lots of bullion from the New World (this will have both good and bad effects on Spain)
Connection with international trade?
Question: How else can a country gain wealth aside from getting bullion?
Methods that the Spanish used to establish New World empires

- Used military force to overcome native resistance
- Set up colonies
- Enslaved the natives
- Distributed land among colonists and gave many of them *encomiendas*
- Intermarried with natives (to an extent)
- Tried to convert natives to Catholicism
Methods that the French used to establish New World empires

- Set up colonies in central locations (Montreal, Quebec, Port-au-Prince (Haiti-San Domingue), New Orleans)
- Limited immigration
- In Canada the French lived and traded with natives instead of enslaving them
- In the Caribbean (Haiti or Guadeloupe, e.g.) African slaves were imported to work on plantations
- Catholicism was spread by missionaries

Main items traded: furs, fish, sugar
English methods of colonization

- They encourage immigration to colonies
- Don’t interact with the natives
- Only limited interest in spreading Christianity to the natives
- If colonists wanted land, resources, etc., they sometimes negotiated with the Indians (they made treaties, e.g.) but mostly they just took what they wanted
- Slavery in the Caribbean, southern Atlantic Seabord colonies
The Caribbean and the Sugar Trade