

CARIBBEAN HISTORY- CORE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**THE EUROPEANS**

## **CSEC Caribbean History: A Glossary of Core terms, people and events of the Caribbean Past**

The CSEC Caribbean History syllabus consists of a Core of *ten topics* and *nine* Themes that cover the extent of Caribbean history from the arrival and settlement of the region by the indigenous people, to the formation and establishment of Independent Caribbean nation-states that arose from centuries of European colonisation and oppressive systems of labour.

The Core topics include the following:

- ❖ The Indigenous Peoples of the Americas
- ❖ The Europeans
- ❖ The Economic Revolution and the coming of enslaved Africans
- ❖ Slave Resistance
- ❖ Emancipation and Apprenticeship
- ❖ The coming of the Chinese, Europeans (Madeirans, Germans, French), Indians and Africans
- ❖ The Establishment of the Peasantry, 1838 to 1900
- ❖ The United States' influence in the Caribbean
- ❖ Popular Protests in the 1930s
- ❖ Movements towards Independence *and Regional Integration* up to 1985.

The Themes are arranged in Sections from **A to C** and include the following:

- ❖ Section A
  - The Indigenous People and the Coming of the Europeans
  - Caribbean Economy and Slavery
  - Resistance and Revolt
- ❖ Section B
  - Metropolitan Movements Towards Emancipation
  - Adjustments to Emancipation, 1838-1876
  - Caribbean Economy, 1875-1985
- ❖ Section C
  - United States in the Caribbean, 1776-1985

- Caribbean Political
- Caribbean Society 1900-1985

## **THEME 1: THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE EUROPEANS**

### **SECTION B: THE EUROPEANS**

- Factors motivating Europeans to explore and settle in the Caribbean up to the end of the 17th century, including wind systems and ocean currents, *technology, trade, religion and national rivalry*.
- Spanish colonisation and its effects on the indigenous populations.
- European rivalry in the Caribbean up to 1763 - trade, piracy, warfare, privateering, buccaneering, settlement *and colonisation*.

### **KEY TERMS**

- **Arequebus** – a musket that was rested on a forked stand to fire.
- **Age of Exploration** – a period from the early 15<sup>th</sup> century that continued to the 17<sup>th</sup> century that the Europeans travelled around the world looking for new trading routes, land, raw materials and trading partners.
- **Alcaldes mayores** – traditional Spanish mayor/a type of provincial governor in Spanish America.
- **Alcaldes ordinaries** – judicial and administrative officers in the Spanish cabildos/ magistrates in the Spanish colonies.
- **Asiento** – a permit or licence granted to allow foreign ships to trade in Spanish colonies.
- **Astrolabe** – an ancient instrument used for estimating altitude and predicting the position of objects, such as moon, planets and stars.
- **Audiencia** – a tribunal in which the sovereign of Spain gave personal attention to matters of justice.
- **Buccaneering** – unscrupulous adventurer involved in risky and dishonest activities on sea to make money.
- **Cabildo** – town council.
- **Cartography** – the study and practice of making maps.

- **Casa de Contracion** – created in 1503 by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to control the trading with the New World, also known as the “House of Trade”.
- **Chagas** – an infectious disease spread by blood sucking insects.

## **SECTION B: THE EUROPEANS**

### **KEY TERMS**

- **Cipango** – a group of islands east of Asia/Japan.
- **Colonisation** – when a country sends out settlers to take over a colony to make it part of their empire/settling and establishing control over a foreign land and making it part of one’s empire.
- **Columbia Exchange** – named after Columbus, it was the widespread transfer of plants, animals, human population, religion, diseases, technology between the Americas, West Africa and the Old World.
- **Conquistador** – a person who is out to conquer new territory.
- **Council of the Indies** – established in 1542 by Charles V and it was the administrative and judicial institution for the Spanish empire.
- **Crusades** – a series of religious wars initiated, supported and sometimes directed by the Latin Church in the medieval period. A series of religious wars by the Roman Catholic Europeans against the Muslims to recover the Holy Land/Jerusalem.
- **Effective occupation** – the powers could acquire rights over colonial lands only if they possessed them.
- **Encomendero** – the man given an encomienda/a Spanish settler in the Americas who was granted indigenous people to work for him in exchange for his protection and his teaching them Christianity.
- **Encomienda System** – a grant by the crown to a conquistador or official enabling him to demand tribute in gold, in kind or in labour from the indigenous people. In turn, he was required to protect them and instruct them in the Christian faith.
- **Flota** – a fleet.
- **Galleone** – large ships that were armed.
- **Genocide** – the killing of a very large group of people. The Spanish committed genocide against the Taino.
- **Guanches** – original inhabitants of the Canary Islands.

- **Heathens** – a person who does not belong to a widely held religion (Christian, Jew or Muslim).
- **Iberian Peninsula** – peninsula in south-western Europe, occupied by Spain and Portugal.

## **SECTION B: THE EUROPEANS**

### **KEY TERMS**

- **Influenza** – contagious infectious disease.
- **Infanticide** – the crime of killing an infant.
- **Ingenio** – machinery (probably crushing mill).
- **Interlopers** – an unauthorized trading vessel in areas assigned to monopolie.
- **La Navidad** – Spanish word for Christmas. Also the name of the fort that the Spanish established in Hispaniola on his first voyage.
- **Lord Proprietor** – a person granted royal charter for the establishment and government of an English colony in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (owner in chief). Lord Proprietors were granted land in the New World by the British Crown to set up colonies there and govern them. They collected yearly land fees from those who settled in the colony.
- **Mercantile** – to do with trading.
- **Mercantilism** – an economic system in which a country attempts to amass wealth through trade with other countries, restricting imports and exporting more/an economic system where the government controls the economy and trade. It protected its merchants and kept foreign traders out by having restrictive tariffs and duties.
- **Mestizo** – a mixed race, Spanish and indigenous descent.
- **Mission** – a group of persons sent by a church to carry on religious work.
- **Papal Bull** – a type of public decree issued by the Pope of the Catholic Church.
- **Piracy** – the practice of attacking and robbing ships.
- **Privateering** – a ship privately owned and crewed but authorized by government during wartime to attack and capture enemy vessels.
- **Quadrant** – the instrument used for taking angular measurements of altitude in astronomy and navigation.
- **Reconquista** – Spanish word for re- conquest.

- **Renaissance** – a movement of the 1300s that saw the revival of classical art, architecture, literature and learning. It originated in Italy and later spread throughout Europe. It was a ‘rebirth’.
- **Repartimiento** – a colonial forced labour system imposed upon the Indigenous Peoples.

## **SECTION B: THE EUROPEANS**

### **KEY TERMS**

- **Residencia** – a court or inquiry held in Spanish countries for a period of 70 days by a specially commissioned judge to examine into the conduct of a retiring official (viceroy, governor).
- **Topography** – is a detailed map of the surface features of land. It includes mountains, hills, valleys, roads.
- **San Salvador** – an island of the central Bahamas in the West Indies. It is generally identified as the first landfall of Christopher Columbus (October 12, 1492). Columbus sighted the island after about 2 months at sea after leaving Spain on his first voyage. It was called Guanahani by the natives. Columbus renamed it San Salvador.
- **Sextant/Cross Staff** – an instrument used for measuring angular distances used especially in navigation, especially the altitude of sun, moon and stars.
- **Smallpox** – a highly contagious and infectious disease that causes fever and spots on the skin. This disease was brought by the Europeans.
- **Syphilis** – a bacterial infection spread by sexual contact.
- **Viceroy** – the governor of a country or province who rules as the representative of a king or sovereign.
- **Western Design** – 1655, the English attack on the Spanish West Indies to secure a base of operations in the Caribbean, to threaten trade and trading routes in the Spanish Main and also weaken the Catholic influence in the New World. This refers to Oliver Cromwell’s expedition to the Caribbean.

### **Sources:**

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Liberties Lost - Caribbean Indigenous Societies and Slave Systems - Hilary McD Beckles,  
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