

U.S. History 1

Clayton E. Cramer

Who Am I?

- Clayton Cramer
- My specialty is American History
 - Constitutional History
 - Black History
- Software Engineer

Welcome To U.S. History 1

- The syllabus
- The class will consist of:
 - Reading
 - Lectures
 - Discussion
 - Quizzes
 - A weekly essay
 - A final exam

Blackboard

- If you have not already visited Blackboard
 - You should
 - Weekly writing assignment will be distributed there
 - Where to keep up what your grades are
 - Where various documents may appear
 - Blackboard demo

Taking Attendance

- First two weeks only
- Required to deal with financial aid questions
- I'll distribute a list on which you sign your name

Discussion: What's That?

- I can just lecture endlessly
 - “A professor is someone who talks in someone else's sleep.”
- Class discussion often more interesting
- Helps to illuminate what you do and do not know
- Draws connections from history to the present and future

Why Are You Taking This Class?

- Are history classes just to make you suffer?
 - Why history matters
 - Ice cream cones & tattoos
 - It wasn't a fashionable tattoo—just a number
 - What else do we number, and why?
 - People as “capital goods”

The Holocaust Was Not Unique

- The 20th century was full of similar crimes against humanity
 - The Armenian Massacre during World War I
 - The Gulag Archipelago in the Soviet Union
 - The Rwanda genocide in the 1990s
 - Intentional starvation of millions in the Ukraine in the 1920s
 - Tens of millions murdered by the Chinese government after the 1949 revolution
 - Millions murdered in Cambodia in the 1970s

History Repeats Itself

- “History repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce” – Karl Marx
 - Marx's followers
 - The desire to pretend that history does not matter
 - Some patterns keep repeating themselves

Another Reason History Matters

- How we live today is built on the past
 - Why am I lecturing you?
 - Because 800 years ago...
 - Books were too expensive for students to own!
 - Student as low-grade copier
- We still do it this way because
 - Writing notes helps you remember

Mass production

- We live in an age of mass production
- iPods, cell phones, pencils, computers, furniture, clothes
- Cheap and consistent in a way that our ancestors could not imagine
- A conscious policy decision by the U.S. Government in the 1790s largely made it happen

Curious Connections

- AIDS, Immunity, and History
- AIDS is caused by a virus: human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- Some people are exposed once, get AIDS, and die
- Others are repeatedly exposed—and never get sick
- Why?

Looking For A Genetic Cause

- Dr. Stephen O'Brien at NIH explored why a particular mutation—CCR5- Δ 32—protects against HIV
- HIV and the CCR5 gene
- The Δ 32 mutation prevents HIV's entry
- Getting this mutation from both parents makes you immune
- Why do some people have this mutation?

Searching Backward

- When did this mutation become common in Europeans?
- It appears—the fourteenth century
- CCR5- Δ 32 also protects you from bubonic plague and smallpox
- Who survived the Black Death? Those with the mutation

The Black Death

- The 1348 pandemic killed 1/3 of Europe
- It kept coming back, but killing fewer each time
- Why? The survivors passed on CCR5- Δ 32 to their descendants
- Today, we can measure CCR5- Δ 32 prevalence and see the effects

The Political Use & Abuse of History

- Cherry-picking history is great for politics
- Not so good for finding truth
- Slavery
 - One of those topics with great evil in our history
 - And great good as well in its abolition
 - Important to understand all of it, not just the parts convenient for today

The Political Use & Abuse of History

- The dangers of “presentism”
 - Judging people of the past by current standards
 - All of us are prisoners in part of our culture
 - Understanding the past means getting past blame and seeing why
- Cherry-picking past actions
 - Abraham Lincoln and race
 - Often had to support white supremacy to get elected
 - Democrats and race-baiting

What History Is and Isn't

- History isn't about memorizing dates and names
- There *are* turning points that change history
 - Columbus' journey to the New World (1492)
 - Battles of Lexington & Concord (April 19, 1775)
 - Ratification of the Constitution (1789)
 - Abolition of slavery (1868)
- These matter

Ideas Not Dates

- It can't *hurt* to know all the dates (especially for Trivial Pursuit)
- But it isn't about dates and names
- It's about events and ideas and what they cause

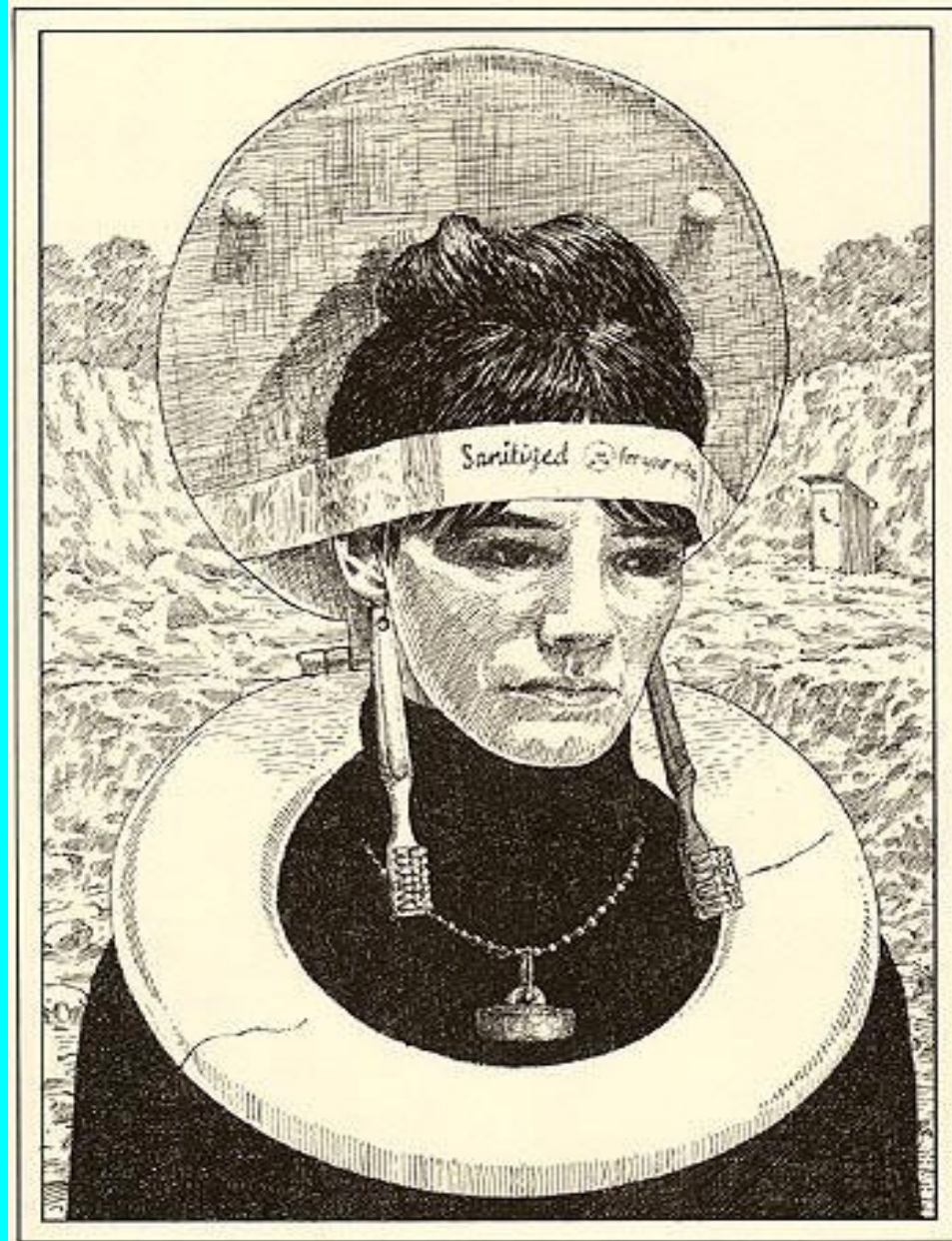
What Do We Mean By History?

- Analysis of written or other verbal records
- Archaeologists work with artifacts
- Historians and archaeologists are on the same team
- The work of each is of interest and value to the other

Prehistoric: What Does That Mean?

- Civilizations without written records
- American Indians as prehistoric: not an insult
- They just didn't leave written records
- Reconstructing ancient civilizations from artifacts alone is very difficult
- David Macaulay, *Motel of the Mysteries* (1979)

Motel of the Mysteries (1979)



Centuries Vs. Years

- Eighteenth Century: the years 1701-1800
- Nineteenth Century: 1801-1900
- Twentieth Century: 1901-2000

Quizzes, Assignments, Readings

- There will be a quiz every week
 - Starting next week
 - First 15 minutes of class
 - 20 multiple choice questions
 - Based on both the assigned readings ***and*** lectures
 - If you aren't studying the assigned readings, you are going to be surprised
 - Lectures highlight important points, but not all

Quizzes, Assignments, Readings

- There will be a quiz every week
 - Because each quiz is so minor, missing one or two, or even three shouldn't destroy your grade
 - So, no make-up quizzes without a doctor's note

Quizzes, Assignments, Readings

- Studying isn't like reading for fun
- Take notes of important points as you read
- Timelines may help to keep sequences straight
- Reading 30 pages at once may not be either pleasant or useful
- Perhaps reading it once for overview, then re-reading individual sections in detail

Quizzes, Assignments, Readings

- A weekly question
 - Starting next week
 - You will turn in a 1-2 page essay answering a question
 - The question will be on Blackboard by midnight each Friday
 - You will be graded on both content and writing
 - I will become more demanding on writing as the weeks roll by

Quizzes, Assignments, Readings

- A weekly question
 - I have put up some study skills and writing guides on Blackboard that may be helpful
 - MLA, APA, Chicago Manual of Style: more concerned with content than footnote style
 - Indented, double spaced, 12 point type
 - I do expect some citation to pages in the readings, or other sources that you use
 - Not a big research paper—but sources outside the assigned reading will be a big advantage

Quizzes, Assignments, Readings

- A weekly question
 - Even a *poor* essay is better than *no* essay
 - 25% off if you are a week late
 - More than a week late, don't bother
 - Each weekly question is equivalent to a quiz, so missing one, or two, or three, won't be a disaster

Quizzes, Assignments, Readings

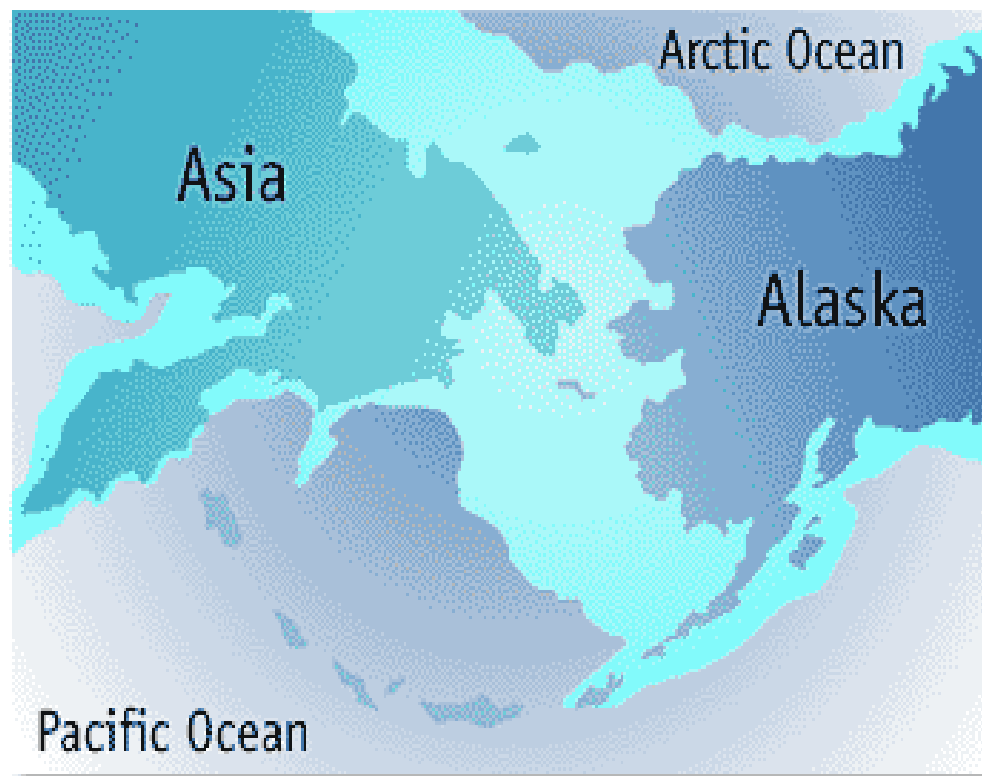
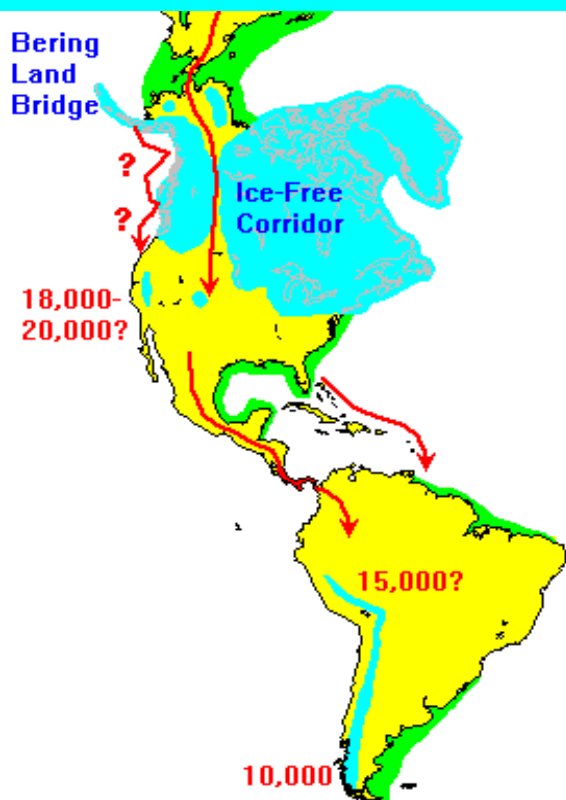
- The final exam
 - 100 points, multiple choice
 - Expect to see some of the quiz questions there
 - Held in our normal class time in the 16th week

The First Americans

- Who put that chunk of land there?
 - The unexpected nature of the New World
 - And of its inhabitants
 - “Indians” because Columbus thought he landed in India, or somewhere nearby
 - Amerinds, aboriginal, or Native American are also used
 - Majority of modern Indians prefer the name of their tribe, followed by Indian

The First Americans

- The Indians are descendants of Asians
 - Crossed over the Bering Land Bridge
 - During the last great ice age



The First Americans

- Probably pursuing the prehistoric equivalent of a supermarket
-



The First Americans

- What do we know about the Paleo-Indians?
 - Surprisingly little
 - Even the dates of arrival are uncertain
 - And we aren't even completely certain if they were all from Asia
- Take 5 minute break
- Show *Mystery of the First Americans*

Since This Was Made

- Kennewick Man still above ground for study
 - Federal courts ruled that he is not an ancestor of a current tribe
- What surprises you about this?
- The question of conquest—and who was here first—gets more complex with time

Who Were The Indians?

- An astonishingly diverse set of peoples
 - Any statement that starts out “The Indians...” will be:
 - Too general to be useful or
 - Inaccurate
 - Farmers and Hunter-Gatherers
 - Technologically advanced and simple
 - Advanced math and astronomy in places
 - Simple tribesmen and centralized governments
 - Cannibals in places; peaceful in others

Who Were The Indians?

- Even in what is now the U.S.
 - Astonishingly diverse
 - Hunter-gatherers in some areas of the West
 - Settled farmers in the East
 - Moundbuilder civilizations in Ohio River Valley built enormous structures

How Many Indians?

- No particularly solid data
 - No one was counting them
 - No central governments to keep records
 - Population decline even before Europeans arrive
 - Why? Little Ice Age, perhaps?
 - Moundbuilders decline
 - Anasazi disappear
 - European contact means high death rates from disease

How Many Indians?

- The textbook uses the number four million in what is now the U.S.
- Older estimates as low as one million
- Recent claims of tens of millions or more are politically motivated, and should not be taken seriously

The Noble Savage Myth

- Largely the work of Rousseau—who never came to America
- Rather similar to the way that some people conclude that anyone at war with America is a victim

Indians as First Ecologists

- This 1970s anti-littering ad is often considered one of the most powerful public service ads ever made
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-a7K2uCJvvg>
- The fact is, Indians were like everyone else
 - Environmentally destructive habits like fire hunting
 - Probably wiped out the large animals of the Americas
 - Low population probably biggest advantage

The Age of Exploration

- Vikings had made some landings in North America
 - They did not stay
 - Little advantage compared to Greenland
 - Numbers too small to successfully hold out against Indians
 - No other clear evidence of European contact

The Age of Exploration

- What do we mean: “Columbus discovered America?”
 - First European to create a general awareness of the New World
 - Had the Indians crossed the Atlantic, and overwhelmed the Europeans, they would say that “discovered” the Old World

Conquest & Its Justifications

- How did Europeans justify their seizure of lands (and people) in the New World?
 - The way that all peoples have done so
 - We're stronger
 - They are weak and primitive or barbaric
 - The way Islam justified seizure of the traditionally Christian lands of Europe & Middle East
 - The way that Indian tribes justified their actions against each other

Conquest & Its Justifications

- The idea of a higher morality that limits how you treat weaker parties is depressingly rare
- There *were* Europeans who argued against mistreatment of the Indians: Cabeza de Vaca; de la Casas; and others

Conquest & Its Justifications

- In America, land often purchased
 - Sometimes, from Indians who didn't understand what they were selling
 - From Indians with no real claim to the land (Manhattan) (and the term “Indian-giver”)
 - By Indians who spoke for some parts of the tribe, but not others
 - Sometimes as a result of alcohol or intimidation
 - Sometimes, because European settlement had driven off the game

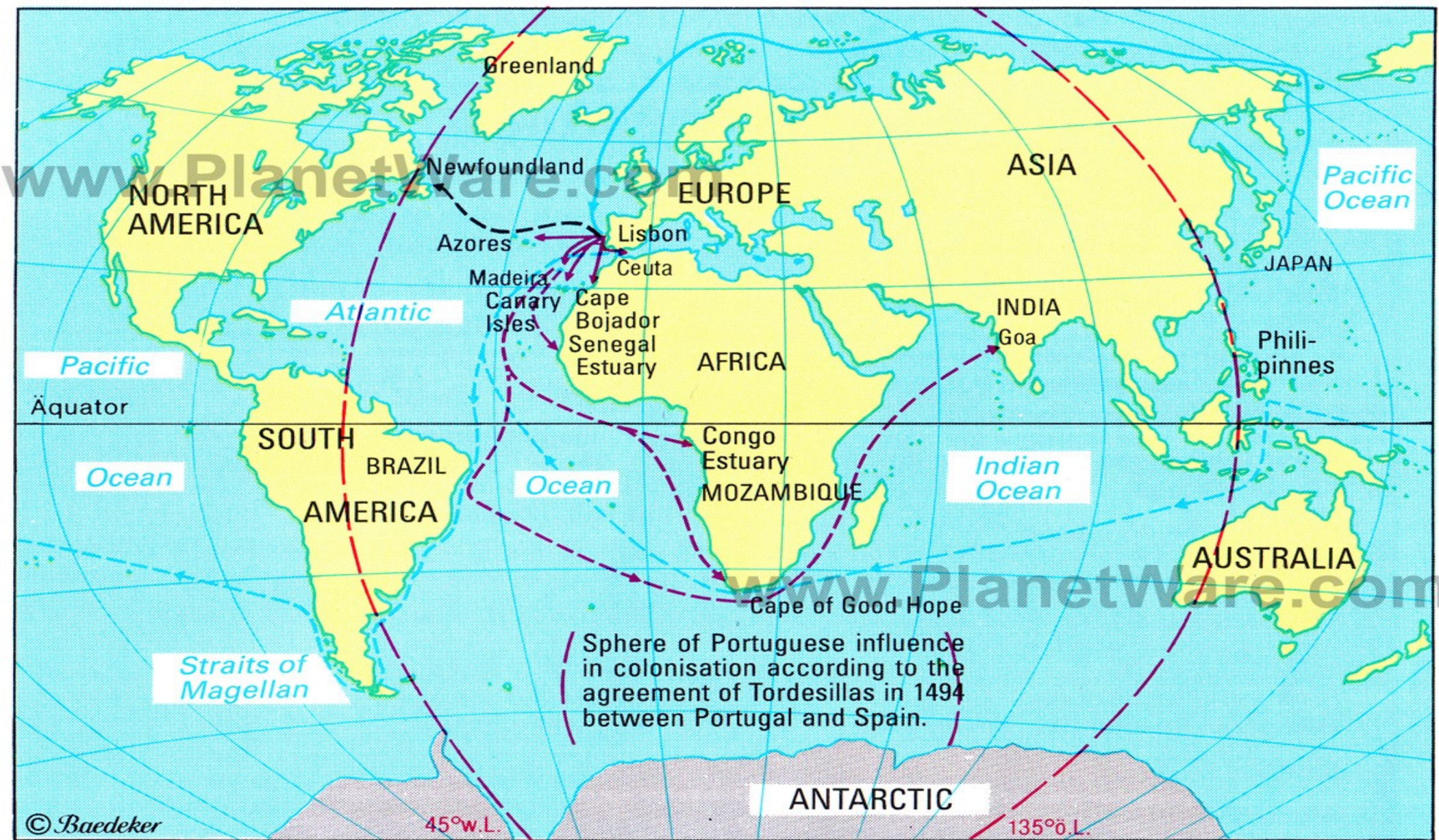
Conquest & Its Justifications

- In America, land often purchased
 - Many tribes in the East retained good lands
 - The Catawbas of North Carolina, because they fought on the American side in the Revolution
- Sometimes in violation of U.S. law
 - Nonintercourse Act (1790) prohibited sales of Indian lands without Congressional approval
 - Much of Maine was transferred without approval
 - Maine Land Claims Act (1980) provided large cash settlement

Conquest & Its Justifications

- Concern for Indian rights grew...
 - The more remote you were from them
 - Royal governments often most supportive
 - Frontiersmen least supportive
 - Fear and greed both drove this

Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)



The Reformation & The New World

- Martin Luther & The Reformation (1517)
 - Caused a fundamental split in Europe
 - Pope no longer unquestioned authority
 - Pope's Treaty of Tordesillas no longer respected by Protestants—and even Catholic France
 - Leads to colonial competition in New World

The Reformation & The New World

- Reformation also drives colonial motives
 - Puritans, Pilgrims, and Quakers seek new places where they will be in charge
 - Protestant ascendancy in England leads to Maryland colony (a Catholic refuge)
 - Much of what makes America unique comes from these religious motives