

# Colonialism, Environment and the Making of the Modern World

Commercial capitalism  
Columbian Exchange  
Hernan Cortes/Francisco Pizarro

El niño Famines  
Liberal economics

Aztecs and Incas  
Environment and Maya decline  
Conquest

Silver and Sugar economies

Amalgamation

Potosi

Slavery and sugar

Silver and sugar and European wealth/making of capitalism

The Great Divergence/Making of Third World

Ming Dynasty

British empire

Opium

Primitive accumulation (Accumulation by dispossession)

Scramble for Africa

# First era of globalization

- European colonialism drove first globalization
- Vast social and economic inequalities, have left legacies
- Created divisions between 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> world—in ideology and material wealth
- Colonialism and environment, often overlooked

# What was the Columbian Exchange?

# The Columbian Exchange



Commercial capitalism	El niño Famines
Columbian Exchange	Liberal economics
Hernan Cortes/Francisco Pizarro	
Aztecs and Incas	
Environment and Maya decline	
Conquest	
Silver and Sugar economies	
Amalgamation	
Potosi	
Slavery and sugar	
Silver and sugar and European wealth	
The Great Divergence/Making of Third World	
Ming Dynasty	
British empire	
Opium	
Primitive accumulation (Accumulation by dispossession)	
Scramble for Africa	

# The story of conquest and colonization

- Spain and Portugal in the Americas
- Hernan Cortes and Francisco Pizarro
- Conquest of Aztec and Inca empire and death by disease
- Colonial racial hierarchies
- Sugar and silver extraction economies
- Environmental consequences

# Aztec Empire

c. 1519

TARASCANS

Tenochtitlan

TLAXCALA

Gulf of Mexico

TEOTITLAN

MIXTEC

the Road to Xoconochco

ZAPOTEC

PACIFIC OCEAN



Core States



Tributary States



Allied States

# Valley of Mexico

c. 1519

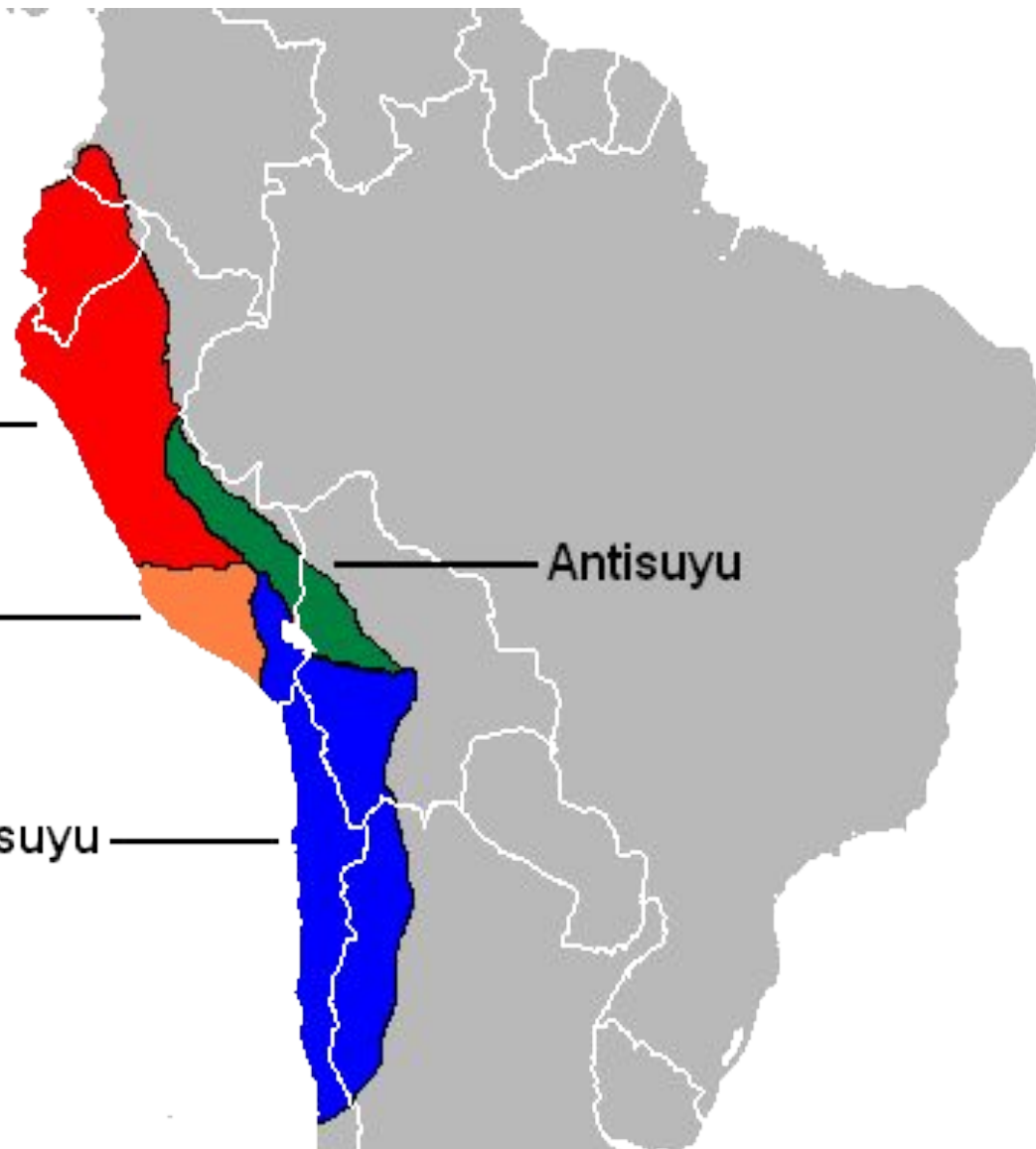


Chinchansuyu —

Cuntinsuyu —

Collasuyu —

Antisuyu



# The story of conquest and colonization

- Spain and Portugal in the Americas
- Hernan Cortes and Francisco Pizarro
- Conquest of Aztec and Inca empire and death by disease
- Colonial racial hierarchies
- Sugar and silver extraction economies
- Environmental consequences











Commercial capitalism  
Columbian Exchange  
Hernan Cortes/Francisco Pizarro  
Aztecs and Incas  
Environment and Maya decline  
Conquest  
Silver and Sugar economies  
Amalgamation  
Potosi  
Slavery and sugar  
Silver and sugar and European wealth  
The Great Divergence/Making of Third World  
Ming Dynasty  
British empire  
Opium  
Primitive accumulation  
Scramble for Africa

El niño Famines  
Liberal economics

# Exploitative and oppressive labor relations and making of European wealth

- Silver and sugar and other tropical products worked by people of color fuelled industrial revolution in Northern Europe and NE United States
- Slavery and the racist bases of capitalism
- Environmental inequalities have been inequalities not just around class but also race

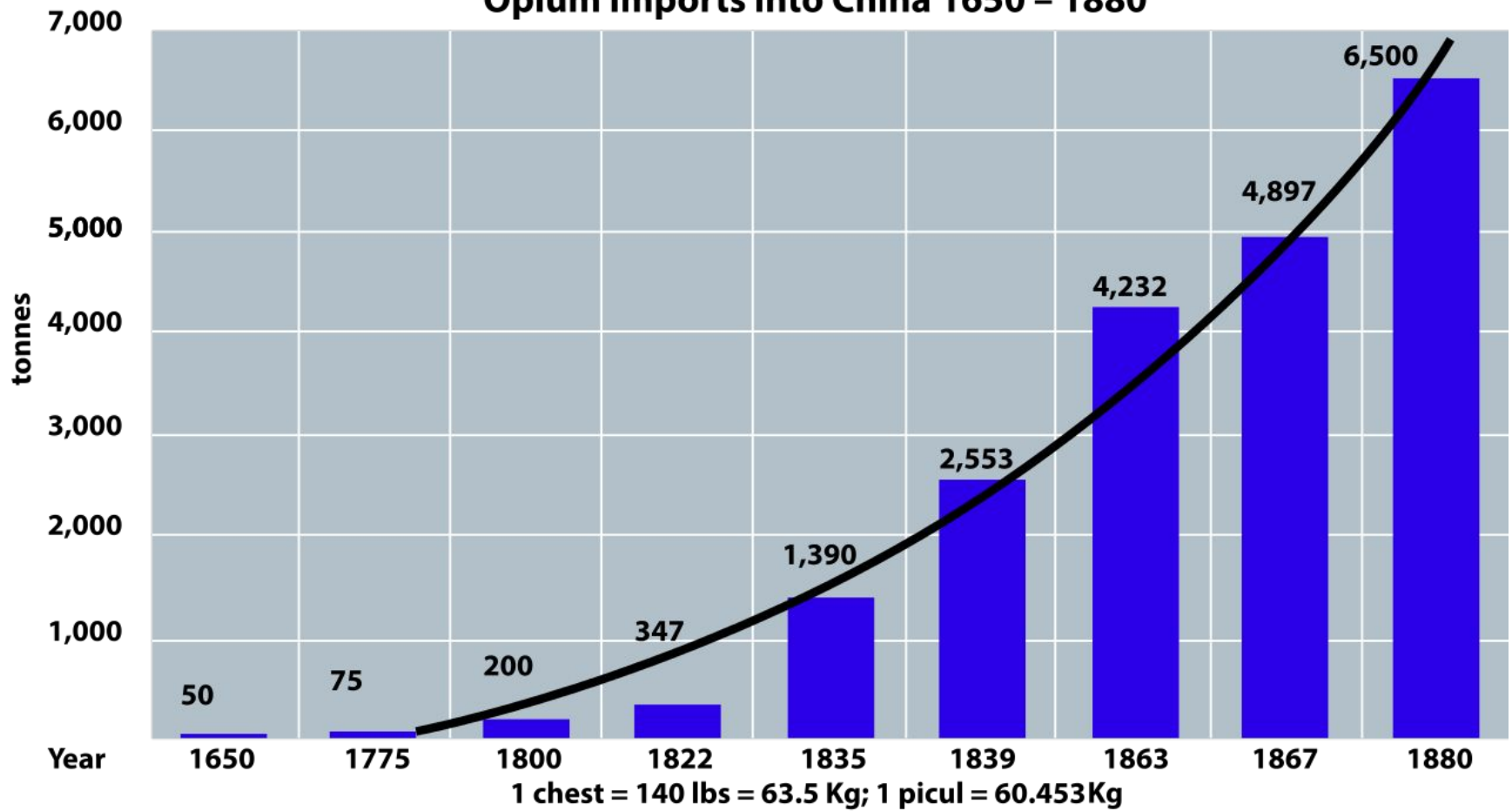
# The Great Divergence

- Wealthy China and Europe as backwater
- What happened?
  - Wealth from sugar and silver
  - Seafaring technology and imperial ambitions
  - Coal (an accident of geography)
  - British opium trade to China
  - El Niño Famines of 19<sup>th</sup> century—a result of colonialist liberal economics (more later in lecture)



Commercial capitalism	El niño Famines
Columbian Exchange	Liberal economics
Hernan Cortes/Francisco Pizarro	
Aztecs and Incas	
Environment and Maya decline	
Conquest	
Silver and Sugar economies	
Amalgamation	
Potosi	
Slavery and sugar	
Silver and sugar and European wealth	
The Great Divergence/Making of Third World	
Ming Dynasty	
British empire	
Opium	
Primitive accumulation (Accumulation by dispossession)	
Scramble for Africa	

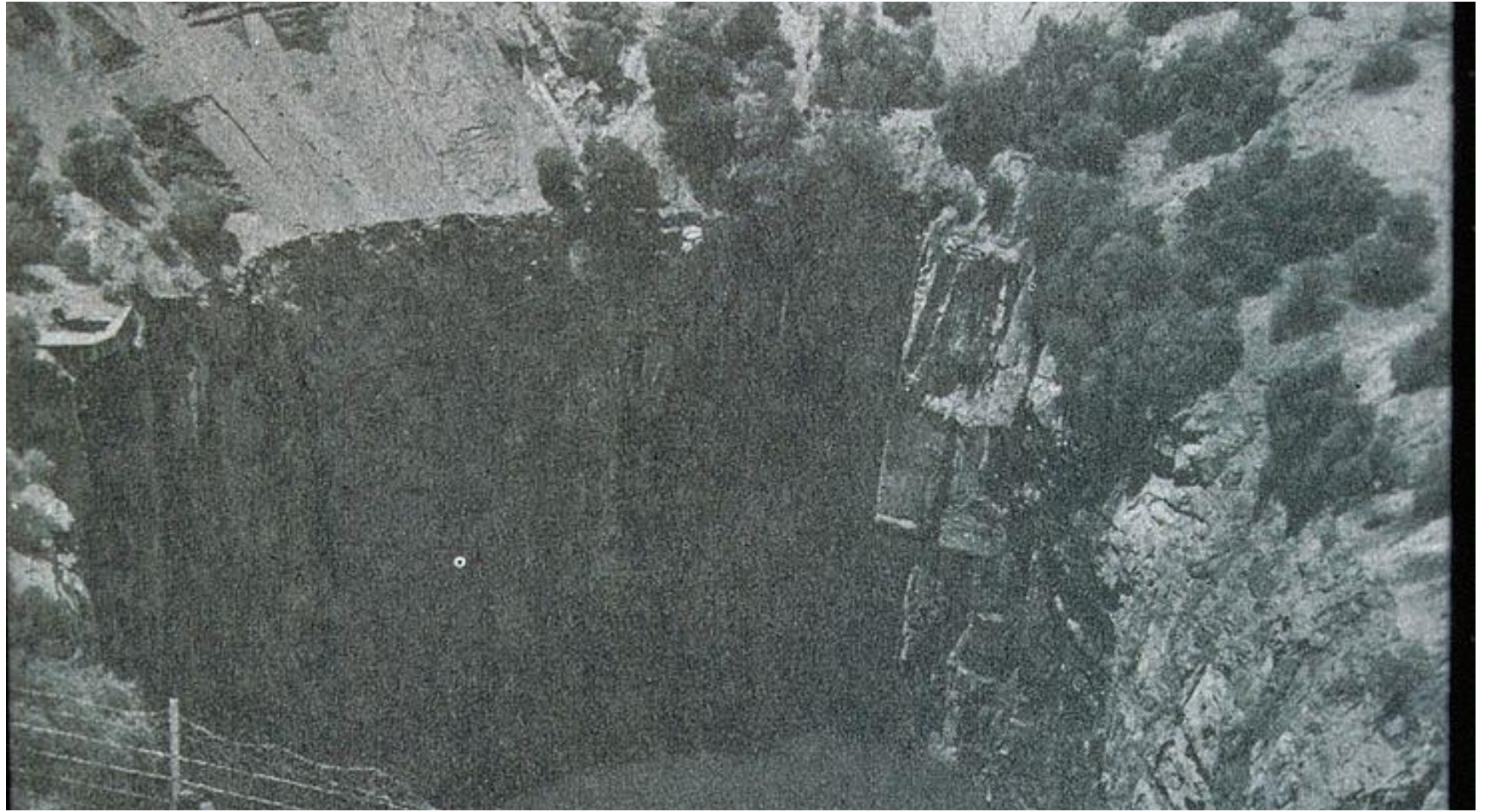
**Opium Imports into China 1650 – 1880**



# Some essentials of 19<sup>th</sup> century colonialism

- European control of land, resources
- Subjugation of people for labor
- Plantation economies
- Wealth Accumulation by dispossession
- Racist ideologies like social darwinism
- In Asia, Great Britain; Scramble for Africa







Commercial capitalism  
Columbian Exchange  
Hernan Cortes/Francisco Pizarro  
Aztecs and Incas  
Environment and Maya decline  
Conquest  
Silver and Sugar economies  
Amalgamation  
Potosi  
Slavery and sugar  
Silver and sugar and European wealth  
The Great Divergence/Making of Third World  
Ming Dynasty  
British empire  
Opium  
Primitive accumulation  
Scramble for Africa

El niño Famines  
Liberal economics

# European Expansion and the Making of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World

- Separation of 1<sup>st</sup> from 3<sup>rd</sup> world operates ideologically and materially
- Ideology of racial hierarchies and through understanding of modernity/progress
- Materially through colonialism of non-European peoples--political and economic subjugation
- Examples of brutal colonialist politics that created unnecessary misery—El niño famines

Commercial capitalism  
Columbian Exchange  
Hernan Cortes/Francisco Pizarro  
Aztecs and Incas  
Environment and Maya decline  
Conquest  
Silver and Sugar economies  
Amalgamation  
Potosi  
Slavery and sugar  
Silver and sugar and European wealth  
The Great Divergence/Making of Third World  
Ming Dynasty  
British empire  
Opium  
Primitive accumulation  
Scramble for Africa

El niño Famines  
Liberal economics

What was the Columbian Exchange?

- A. A now defunct clothing company
- B. The crossing of pathogens, plants, and people from Old World to New and New World to Old
- C. A coffee cooperative that sold premium dark roast coffee to elite European consumers starting in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- D. The name Columbus gave to the slave trade