

The Gulf Coast and The West

1607-1763



by Joe Burton

Spain Establishes Claims

- ❖ The Spanish came to the New World searching for gold and treasures...
- ❖ ...as well as a trade route to China.
- ❖ In the first half of the 1500s, Spain established claims in the South and West of North America...
- ❖ ...when explorers Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, Hernando de Soto, and Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca became the first Europeans to explore the areas.

Spain Establishes Claims

- ❖ Starting in the late 1500s...
- ❖ ...Catholic Spanish clergy arrived and built missions...
- ❖ ...in an effort to convert the Indians to Christianity.
- ❖ These missions were supported by farming communities and military forts...
- ❖ ...giving Spain a solid presence in the West.

Spain Establishes Claims

- ❖ Eventually, Spain's colonial territories stretched across the South...
- ❖ ...from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific coast.





Mission San Luis de Apalachee, in what is now Tallahassee, was the western outpost of the Florida Mission System from 1656 to 1704.

The settlement was home to 1,400 Apalachee Indians, various Spanish military personnel, farmers, and ranchers. The mission was prosperous, given the good soil, but conflicts with Creek Indians, and the British forced it to be abandoned in the summer of 1704.



Spanish Missions & The Catholic Church

- ❖ The Roman Catholic Church had a large role in Spain's expansion in the Americas.
- ❖ Having first arrived in the New World in 1524...
- ❖ ...Franciscan Friars accompanied most of the most of the explorations to expand Spanish Territory.
- ❖ Catholics saw Indians as unsaved souls...
- ❖ ...and felt a moral obligation to convert them to Christianity.

Spanish Missions & The Catholic Church

- ❖ This resulted in both forced and peaceful attempts at conversion.
- ❖ The first Spanish missions were founded in the 1500s in Florida...
- ❖ ...in the 1600s missions were established in what is now New Mexico...
- ❖ by the late 1700s...
- ❖ ...the coast of California was dotted with Missions.

Spanish Missions & The Catholic Church

- ❖ The Indians who were taken into the missions were forced to settle nearby...
- ❖ ...and work the farms that sustained the missions...
- ❖ ...many of these people suffered from hard labor and disease.
- ❖ Guarded by soldiers...
- ❖ ...the missions protected Spain's Colonial territories from the French and English...

Spanish Missions & The Catholic Church

- ❖ ...and others who might try to lay claim to their lands.



“Discovery of the Mississippi”

by William H. Powell (1823–1879) is a Romantic depiction of *de Soto* seeing the Mississippi River for the first time. It hangs in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.



“De Soto Lands in Florida”

De Soto and His Men were the first Europeans to see the Mississippi River. They had crossed from Havana, Cuba to Florida in 1539...

...seeking gold; instead they found rich river-valley soil, plentiful fishing, and one of the world's finest natural harbors - at the place where the river meets the Gulf of Mexico...

...which the French settled and named New Orleans.

Shuffling Empires

Date	Event	Nations Involved	Outcome
1763	Treaty of Paris	France, England, Spain	Territory Divided Between England and Spain
1795	Treaty of San Lorenzo	United States, Spain	Mississippi Becomes Border Between U.S. and the Spanish Colonies
1800	Treaty of San Ildefonso	Spain, France	Spain gives Louisiana to France - Cannot Sell to English Speaking Nation.
1802	Violation of The Treaty of San Lorenzo	Spain, United States	Spain Closes New Orleans to American Trade
1803	Louisiana Purchase	France, United States	France Violates TOSI and Sells to The United States
1819	Adams-Onís Treaty	Spain, United States	United States Acquires Florida from Spain.

French Louisiana

- ❖ French explorers were among the first Europeans to enter central and western America.
- ❖ France was more interested in developing new trade routes than in the glory of acquiring new lands...
- ❖ ...though it was certainly a goal to create a barrier to stop the English from spreading their colonial empire westward.
- ❖ Eventually, French claims included Acadia in Canada, the Great Lakes area...

French Louisiana

- ❖ ...the Gulf Coast, and the Mississippi River Valley...
- ❖ ...whose base was New Orleans...
- ❖ ...a thriving community settled equally by Europeans, Indians, and Africans.



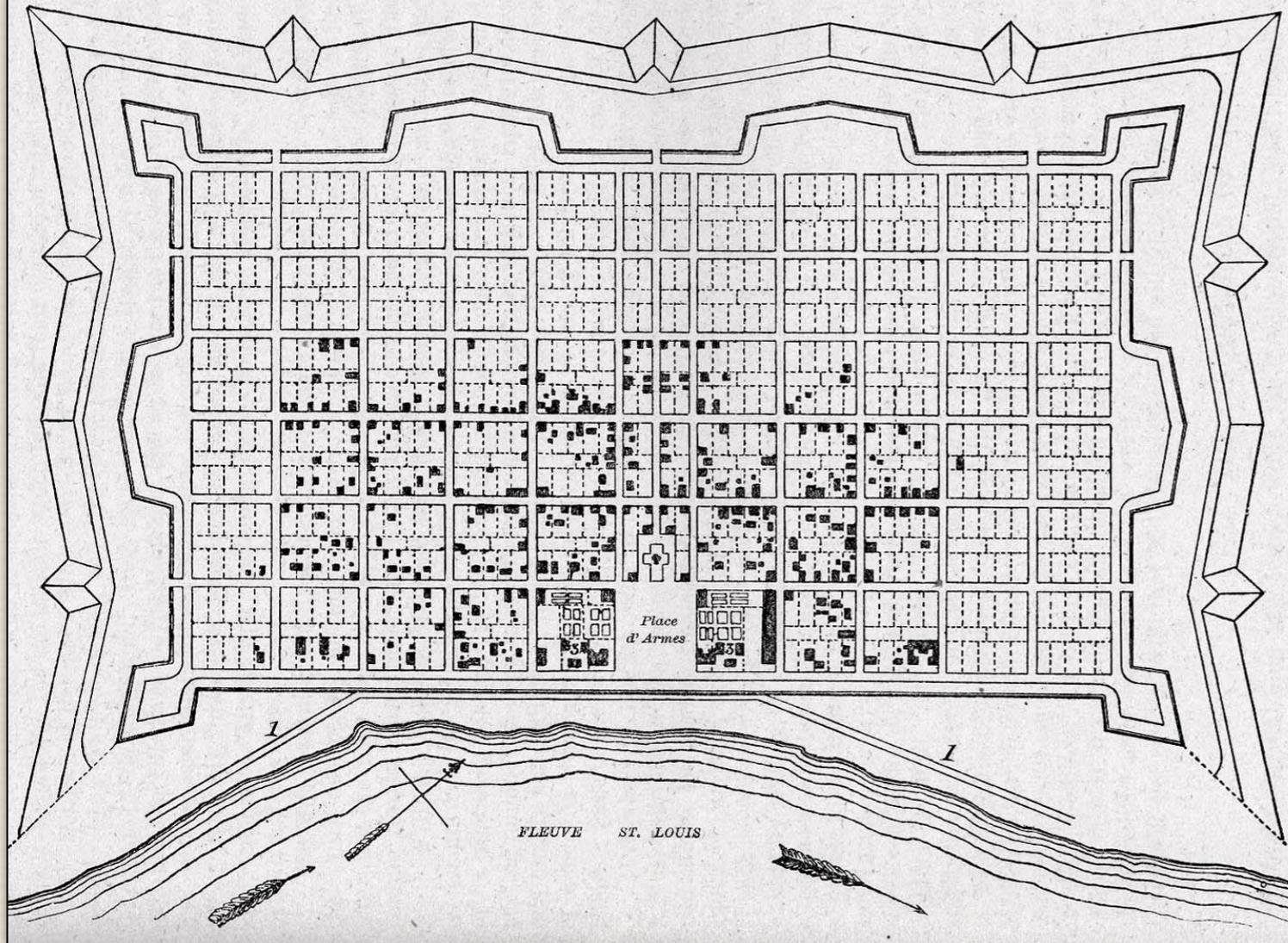
PLAN ET PROJET,
DE LA
NOUVELLE ORLÉANS.
AUGUST 9TH, 1763.

LÉGENDE

1. Levée de terre pour se garantir des inondations du Fleuve.
2. Magasin de la Compagnie.
3. Îles de maisons à la Compagnie.

ECHELLE DE 200 TOISES.

20 40 60 80 100 200 T.



This Map of The City of New Orleans from 1744, during the French Colonial Period...shows the city planned on a European-modeled grid system with a large central plaza.

The Creation of New Orleans



La Nouvelle-Orléans (New Orleans) was founded in the spring of 1718 by *The French Mississippi Company*, under the direction of *Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville* (left), on land that was inhabited by the Chitimacha.

It was named for Philippe II, Duke of Orléans, his title came from the French city of Orléans. During the American Revolutionary War, New Orleans was an important port for smuggling aid to the American revolutionaries, and transporting military equipment and supplies up the Mississippi River.

Beginning in the 1760s, Filipinos began to settle in and around New Orleans.^[30] *Bernardo de Gálvez y Madrid, Count of Gálvez* successfully directed a southern campaign against the British from the city in 1779.

Nueva Orleans... nearly all of the surviving 18th-century architecture of the Vieux Carré (French Quarter) dates from the Spanish period.

French Relations with The Indians

- ❖ Unlike other Colonial Powers...
- ❖ ...the French did not enslave American Indians or take over all of their land.
- ❖ The French fur trade relied on Indians' interest in exchanging furs for manufactured goods...
- ❖ ...such as iron tools, wool blankets, and firearms.
- ❖ Also, the French Jesuits who established missions treated Indians more kindly...

French Relations with The Indians

- ❖ ...than did the Spanish Friars...
- ❖ ...and did not use them as laborers.
- ❖ This level of friendship was not true for all tribes, however.
- ❖ For instance...
- ❖ ...conflict with the Natchez Indians led the French to destroy an entire tribe.

