

Why Did the Europeans Come?

There were all sorts of reasons as to why the Europeans came and established colonies in North America. I've taken the liberty of organizing these reasons under the headings economic, religious, and technological:

<p>Economic Factors</p> <p>1). The re-discovery of North America was not an accident—economic forces (mercantilism) and the rivalry between kings encouraged exploration.</p> <p>2). The importance of farming faded as the importance of industrialization increased. Farmers left the countryside to work in city factories. Cities became over-crowded and something needed to be done about the problem of over-population. Colonies seemed like the logical place to put these extra people.</p> <p>3). The desire for profit encouraged merchants to find new trade routes to India and China.</p>	<p>Technological Advances</p> <p>1). Advances in such areas as navigation and shipbuilding gave the Europeans the means to sail longer distances safely.</p> <p>2). Advances in weaponry gave the Europeans a decisive advantage over the First Nations peoples, I.e. Canon, rifles, etc. often enabled a smaller number of Europeans to control larger populations of natives.</p>
<p>Over-Population in Europe</p> <p>1). Colonization was a way of solving the problem of over-population in the various kingdoms of Europe.</p> <p>2). In the case of England's colonization of Australia, colonization was a way of removing "undesirable" members, I.e. Thieves, murderers, etc. of the population to a remote area of the globe.</p> <p>3). Colonies were also seen as a symbol of national power; that is, the kingdoms of Europe were just like rival kids in a sand box seeing who could build the biggest castle.</p>	<p>Religious Factors</p> <p>1). Both Catholic and Protestant missionaries encouraged kings to discover new lands and "new peoples."</p> <p>2). Missionaries wanted to convert these "uncivilized" and "godless" people to Christianity.</p>