

THE END OF THE 16TH CENTURY - AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 17TH CENTURY THE FORMATION OF ENGLISH COLONIALISM

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Interest in England in the development of North America dates back to the late 1570s. ¹⁰³, in the previous period, attention to this region was limited to exploratory expeditions ¹⁰⁴and privateer voyages in the West Indies ¹⁰⁵. The following decades were marked by the appearance of the first English colonial projects, peculiar and imperfect, but laying the foundation for new attempts to gain a foothold in America, undertaken in the 1600s-1620s, and further theoretical research.

Since the 1580s the circulation of colonial ideas in English society increases sharply, the first works of various genres appear, introducing the reader to the exotic world of North America and its inhabitants.

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England period 1580-1620s. became the time of the first "trial and error" in the colonial field, attempts to establish settlements in the New World and interest the audience in its development. The choice of this chronological interval, the most important for our work, is not accidental. During these years, all the attention of interested parties was focused on the Virginia Colony - the first real project that involved the creation of long-term English settlements in the New World. The beginning of the development of Virginia is entirely connected with the activities of Sir Walter Raleigh (1552-1618), the famous Elizabethan courtier, writer, military leader, favorite of Elizabeth I. His measures, in particular, sending two parties of colonists to America, in 1584 and 1587, were unsuccessful6. However, English readers had the

¹⁰⁵In the 1560s English privateers (D. Hawkins) established a semi-legal slave trade with the Spanish West Indies. However, against the backdrop of an intensifying confrontation with Spain, these voyages soon become

¹⁰³ The British are the leaders in the exploration of North America: the Genoese John (Giovanni) Cabot (between 1450– 55, Genoa - 1499), who settled in Bristol in 1490 at the invitation of Henry VII, was the first to study and describe the Labrador Peninsula, about. Newfoundland (1597-98). However, under the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494, these lands entered the zone of influence of Spain, and the successors of Henry VII, observing these conditions, refused to finance further expeditions. However, later, from the 1570s, the English used the studies of D. Cabot as one of the main arguments in favor of the further development of America in the framework of political controversy.

¹⁰⁴ F From the 1560s, as the confrontation with Spain intensified, interest in this region resumed. First of all, the idea of searching for a northwestern sea route to China, which remained relevant at the beginning of the 17th century, was gaining ground. Expeditions to search for this passage were undertaken simultaneously with voyages in a northeasterly direction (H. Willoughby and R. Chancellor, 1553), which had the same goal - penetration into China bypassing European countries. The voyages in both directions were financed by the same sponsors, among whom the most significant were the merchants of the Moscow Trading Company, founded in 1555. At their expense, ships were equipped, captains were trained, and, no less important, propaganda was conducted in England, literature was funds. Outstanding intellectuals of the era worked for the Moscow Trading Company, including R. Hakluyt the elder (1530-1591), R. Hakluyt the younger (1552 or 1553-1616, below - simply R. Hakluyt), D. Dee (1527-1609) and others .

the nature of military expeditions (F. Drake). The idea of using the New World as a base for applying

hitting the enemy in "his backyard" was the second important factor that stimulated the emergence of projects for the colonial development of North America. For more details, see: Belan M. A. Hawkins John // Encyclopedia of the Renaissance. T. 2. Part 2. C. 531.



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opportunity to get to know the amazing worlds of the New World, primarily thanks to the work of Raleigh's supporters, the outstanding scientists R. Hakluist and T. Harriot.

The active literary and publishing activity of Hakluyt, who for many decades published, translated and commented on various works about America, as well as writing theoretical treatises and pamphlets, created the prerequisites for the rapid spread of colonial ideas in English society. The scientific research of Thomas Harriot, a European-level scientist, in turn allowed England to catch up with other powers, primarily Spain, in knowledge about the New World, its nature and inhabitants. However, in the late 1580s. a number of circumstances, primarily the foreign policy crisis, did not allow Raleigh to realize his plans. Until the beginning of the 17th century. the interest of the crown, sponsors, and most of the active figures of England was focused on events in Europe, and only with the advent of a new dynasty in 1603 is there the political will, strength and means to continue the colonization of America ¹⁰⁶.

After the conclusion of peace with Spain by James I in 1604, given the negative attitude of the monarch towards privateering, the ideas of promotion in America come to life, the question of a colony in Virginia is again raised. In 1606, Jacob, having annulled Raleigh's rights, granted patents for the development of this region to two companies: London and Plymouth (the merchants of these cities were most actively involved in overseas enterprises). However, concrete action was taken only by the Londoners: after a series of reconnaissance voyages, a party of colonists was sent in 1607 to found Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America ¹⁰⁷.

The second Virginia company lasted until 1624, its history is full of complex and interesting twists and turns. However, despite the support of influential sponsors, including scientists and statesmen (among them were R. Cecil, Henry Risley, Earl of Southampton, F. Bacon, Henry Prince of Wales), for a number of reasons, by the beginning of the 1620s. The company is facing a deep crisis. The weakness and disproportionate economy of the colony, conflicts with the natives and, last but not least, the negative attitude of the monarch himself led to the dissolution of the company, and the announcement of Virginia as a royal colony.

In relation to the history of the early English colonization of America, we have a diverse set of sources. Mostly, these are materials related to the history of the Virginia colony of the 1580s. And 1606-1624. Before us is a complex of narrative sources of various types: from ship's logs, reports, memoirs and letters, to scientific reference books, propaganda pamphlets, theological treatises.

which was supposed to bring supplies to the second colony in 1588. As a result, White managed to get to Virginia only in 1590, thanks to the efforts of the well-known patron of geographical research W. Sanderson (W. Sanderson),

and only as a passenger on an English ship under the command of privateer D. Watts (J. Watts). White hardly persuaded the captain to swim to the place of settlement and land him on the shore, where no traces of the colonists were found.

¹⁰⁶ F In preparation for repelling the Invincible Armada, all ships were mobilized, including the flotilla,

¹⁰⁷In addition, Bristol was a significant center, people from which, at the end of the 15th century, paved the way to about. Newfoundland, whose waters are unusually rich in fish (cod banks), and have established an annual summer navigation, which included the coastal cities of Holland, France and Spain. Routes The early British voyages to America have been reconstructed in detail in recent decades. Quinn DB England and the discovery of America. 1481 - 1620. NY, 1974. P. 50-51.



Colonial ideas left a significant imprint in the cultural life of England at the end of the 16th - the first quarter of the 17th centuries: the theme of the New World, in particular, the development of Virginia, was reflected in lyrics, dramaturgy, fine arts, philosophers and politicians turned to it. In connection with the chosen topic of research, the works on the New World were also involved, appearing at that time in Spain, France, the number and variety of which increased every decade.

Interest in colonial themes in Tudor England began with the publication and translation of foreign sources. In the 1560s - 1570s. Among the English intellectuals, the works of authors well-known throughout Europe, mostly writing in Spanish, are distributed - these are numerous chronicles and histories: "Decades" by P. Martyr, "General History of the Indies" by B. de Las Casas, "General and Natural History of the Indies" by G. F. de Oviedo y Valdez, General History of the Indies by F. López de Gomara (see about them pp. 33-34). As interest in North America increased in England, in the late 1570s - 1580s. the first treatises written by local theorists appear, reports are published on the voyages of the Cabots, on recent privateer raids in the West Indies (in particular, the voyages of D. Hawkins 1562-69).

At the same time, much attention was paid to other regions that the British discovered during this period: first of all, northeastern Europe (regular contacts with Muscovy were maintained from 1553), the East Indies, and partly Africa. The understanding that British foreign policy was reaching a new level was characteristic of a number of prominent intellectuals of the era, such as D. Peckham, R. Hakluyt, D. Dee. Assessing the prospects that open up new horizons for the country, they were the first to turn to the popularization of colonial ideas in English society.

Key figure in the 1580s. becomes Richard Hakluyt, who devoted most of his life to promoting the ideas of the development of America ¹⁰⁸. He showed interest in colonial issues from the late 1570s, under the influence of Frobisher's travels (the first navigations to America, which received a wide response in English society), and in the following decades he became the main apologist for the colonization of Virginia. With his active creative, publishing, and translation activities, Hakluyt provided great support to the undertakings of Raleigh, whom he had known since his studies at Oxford.

The heritage of Hakluyt is great and versatile. It is possible to single out works written by the scientist himself: treatises, comments, notes. However, they are all in addition to the main work of his life, a large-scale collection of monuments - a collection of various sources relating to the sea expeditions of the British, undertaken throughout their history (mainly in the last hundred years). The first version of this

¹⁰⁸ Hakluyt was born in 1552/3 in London, into a noble family. Orphaned early, he was taken under guardianship by his half-brother, a lawyer. He graduated from Westminster School, Oxford (MA, 1577), in 1580. He took the priesthood. Known for his mathematical courses, he taught the art of navigation at Christ Church until 1586. Together with his brother, Hakluyt took an active part in the activities of the Moscow Company, repeatedly advised agents who went to Muscovy; in 1578 he helped with the preparation of Gilbert's expedition. Under the influence of Raleigh, he became interested in the idea of colonizing America, from 1580 he translated continental authors (J. Cartier, Las Casas, prepared a new edition of P. Martyr's Decades of the New World).



code, called The Principal Voyages of the English Nation, used in our work, appeared in 1589, at the height of Raleigh's campaign to colonize Virginia ¹⁰⁹.

The second, supplemented and expanded edition, was published in 1599. The tradition of compiling such collections also existed on the continent, where Hakluyt met her, most likely during his service in Paris.

The Principal Voyages is not only a collection of documents, but is in itself a valuable source on the history of colonial ideas and colonial propaganda. This set of materials is clearly structured, provided with Hakluyt's comments, practical calculations of various kinds (tables with distances, etc.), maps and engravings-illustrations. It was in the composition of the "Main Voyages" that the English reader became aware of many documents, both foreign and English: many of them were first published by Hakluyt, and only later appeared in separate editions (most of the sources we use, published by Hakluyt, will be quoted from the "Main Voyages"). Despite the desire of the compiler to defend the priority of his compatriots (along with reports of real travels, descriptions of frankly mythical expeditions20 were included), the Hakluyt codex remained the most popular and significant collection, the significance of which in the dissemination of colonial ideas went far beyond the mere publication of sources. Only in the 1620s. there will be comparable works by the followers of Hakluyt.

At the beginning of the 17th century, with the resumption of the activities of the Virginia Company, already under the leadership of London merchants, the number and variety of sources increased. First of all, we have an extensive block of official materials of the company for 1603-1624, covering various aspects of its activities from the first reconnaissance voyages to the announcement of Virginia as a royal colony. Among them are both traditional narrative sources (journals, diaries, chronicles of events, weather reports of the company, speeches and correspondence of officials are added to them), as well as theoretical works, treatises, reasoning, stories, etc.

¹⁰⁹In the dedication, Hakluyt addressed Sir Francis Walsingham, a member of the Privy Council known for his tough stance against Spain.