

While Spain and Portugal were conquering Central and South America it was primarily the British and French who established themselves on the coasts of North America in 1497 just five years after Columbus's first voyage John Cabot in the service of the English king reached the North American coast in Labrador French exploration began with Jacques Cartier who sailed through the Gulf of St Lawrence and up the St Lawrence River in 1534 1541 the buccaneer Walter Raleigh landed at Cape Hatteras in North Carolina in 1584 claimed the entire Atlantic coast between the 35th and 45th parallels for England and named the area Virginia in honor of the virgin queen Elizabeth I in 1607 it officially became a British colony and in 1624 a Crown colony Henry Hudson investigated the East Coast of North America for Great Britain in 1609 while the French missionary Jacques Marquette and fur trader Louis Jolliet discovered the Mississippi River Valley from Wisconsin to Arkansas Louisiana became the center of French colonization in the Mississippi area in 1716 1717 and in 1718 the French founded the city of New Orleans