

Revolutionary Rum:
Economic Exploration that Ignited the
American Revolution

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During Paul Revere's renowned ride from Boston to Lexington warning John Hancock and Samuel Adams of the British approach, he stopped to drink a rum toddy in a Medford, Massachusetts tavern. Many would assume his drink of choice would be "Liberty Tea", a substitute for real tea made from tisanes and consumed in protest of British tyranny.¹ The dumping of British East India Company tea during the Boston Tea Party is recognized as the first purposeful revolutionary act by the English colonies. Because of this deed, tea is seen as the revolutionary drink, but it was rum that incited the American Revolution. Rum, an alcoholic beverage made from molasses and cultivated from sugarcane in tropical regions, initiated New England's exploration of a self-reliant economy. When Britain began to tax the rum trade, the colonies' most lucrative asset, colonial resentment grew, fostering contempt towards Parliament. The colonists encountered a mother country excessively regulating them, while Parliament encountered disobedient colonies. Attempting to gain control of her settlements, Parliament taxed colonial foreign trade, initiating an exchange of regulation for rebellion between the motherland and the colonies. Therefore, British regulation of the rum trade was *the* spark that ignited the rebellion which founded our nation.

Rum's influence on the founding of America arose from Europe's desire to colonize the New World. Colonialism is the practice of domination by one country subjugating another region for monetary or influential gain.² During this period, European countries saw colonialism as the avenue to power. As high speed ships became readily available, Europeans found that moving

¹Liberty Tea was made from tisanes and was used as a tea substitute in the boycott against the Tea Act. Tisanes are spices, herbs, or other plant material besides tea leaves.

Perry, Dr. Leonard. "Liberty Tea." Liberty Tea. University of Vermont, n.d. Web. 12 Apr. 2016.
<<http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/liberty.html>>.

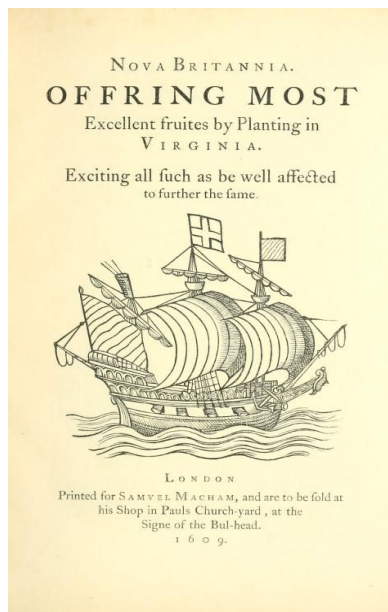
²Stanford University. Stanford University, 09 May 2006. Web. 13 Feb. 2016
<<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/colonialism/>>.

Russia, the Netherlands, Spain, England, and France were all trying to use colonialism to build their empires.

Lesson of Our Land. Indian Land Tenure Foundation, 2016. Web. 20 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.lessonsofourland.org/lessons/european-colonization-around-world>>.

large groups of people across the Atlantic became feasible. Colonialism made consolidating both



New World advertisement, Internet Archives

political and economic sovereignty of regions more practical for many European powers. When England began to build settlements in the Americas, the settlers were enthusiastic to pack up and travel across the ocean expecting a land that would provide. Precious gems and metals were rumored to be present in the New World, legends and stories grew, and the new land became irresistible.³

Settlers expected similar climates to those of the Mediterranean, and anticipated a ready supply of olives, fruit, and resources, decreasing their heavy dependence on England.⁴ These expectations were far from reality. The harsh climate created

difficult growing seasons, where crops were unable to flourish. Additionally, there were diseases, food shortages, infighting, and constant battles with the indigenous people.⁵ Although their dependence on England remained high, the colonists began to explore the idea of an independent economy, free from England.

With all these struggles to overcome, a reliable alcoholic drink remained of high importance. When settling the colonies, colonists brought their love of beer and cider with them.⁶ Most brewing was done at home, and the colonists drank day and night. That is, until they

³ Other reasons for colonizing the New World would include religion, mercantilism, primogeniture, and the chance to own personal land, which meant freedom in Europe.

Perrin, Pat. *Spanish Explorers*. Carlisle, M: Discovery Enterprises, 2003. Print.

⁴Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print.

⁵Smith, Frederick H.. "Rum". In *Oxford Bibliographies in Atlantic History*. 11-Apr-2016.

<<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199730414/obo-9780199730414-0155.xml>>.

Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print

⁶*Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library*. Winterthur Museum, 2009. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.winterthur.org/?p=737>>.

exceeded the supply of natural resources available.⁷ When they found that demand outstripped the supply of alcohol, they began to experiment with new ways of distilling. Colonists, at this time, were exploring both a new source of alcohol and a new economy less dependent on England.

The rum trade manifested from the colonists' desire for an accessible alcoholic beverage. In the early colonial period, the English colonists had limited access and yet a strong social attachment to alcohol. The brandy initially sent over from England had been consumed by the ships' crews, only small amounts making it to the colonies, and local grapes made for revolting wine.⁸ The colonists' thirst for alcohol could not be quenched by water for both social and perceived health reasons. Drinking water was discouraged due to contamination by often fatal bacterium. George Percy described the colonists' drink as, "...cold water taken out of the River, which was at a flood verie salt, at a low tide full of slime and filth, which was the destruction of many of our men."⁹ A sixteenth-century dietician, Andrew Boorde, further noted that, "Water is not wholesome solely by itself for an Englishman.... If any man do use to drink water with wine, let it be purely strained, and then [boil] it; and after it be cold, let him put it to his wine."¹⁰ Although it was polluted, this was not the only factor leading to little water being consumed by the colonists. On the occasions when clean water was available, alcohol was still preferred. Colonist William Wood observed, "It is thought that there can be no better water in the world, yet I dare not prefer it for good beer, as some have done, but any man will choose it before bad beer."¹¹ A

⁷ Smith, Gregg. "Brewing In Colonial America - Part I." *Brewing in Colonial America- Part I*. BeerHistory.com, 2007. Web. 18 Feb. 2016. <<http://beerhistory.com/library/holdings/greggsmith1.shtml>>.

⁸ Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print

⁹ Crews, Ed. "History.org: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Official History and Citizenship Website."

Drinking in Colonial America. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2016. Web. 14 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.history.org/foundation/journal/holiday07/drink.cfm>>.

¹⁰ Barr, Andrew. "Drink: A Social History of America." *Books*. Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., 1999. Web. 05 Apr. 2016. <<http://www.nytimes.com/books/first/b/barr-drink.html>>.

¹¹ Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print

Spanish observer disclosed that the 300 colonists had nothing but water to drink, “which is contrary to the nature of the English- on account of which they all wish to return and would have done so if they had been at liberty.”¹² In England, the drinking of water was scorned because it was free, therefore its consumption marked an individual as poor. Instead, it was replaced with alcohol which required purchase, and was thusly respected. "Would you believe it," wrote Swiss visitor César de Saussure in the 1720's, "though water is to be had in abundance in London, and of fairly good quality, absolutely none is drunk? In this country... beer... is what everybody drinks when thirsty."¹³ Rum began to appear in the mid-seventeenth century¹⁴ and soon became the favorite alcoholic drink in the colonies.¹⁵ In colonial society, rum was believed to possess many beneficial qualities. Rum was thought to heal the sick, strengthen the weak, enliven the elderly, and generally improve overall wellbeing. The beverage was at first used as a medicine but was soon drunk more for pleasure.¹⁶

African-born slaves, who worked on sugar plantations in the Caribbean, were left with a sticky byproduct after they boiled the sugar cane, and with no visible purpose, they threw the substance into the ocean. Eventually, the slaves discovered that this molasses could be fermented into a hard alcohol that, initially, was so harsh it was named Kill Devil.¹⁷ With further experimentation, the slaves produced rum. Referring to sugar-cultivating slaves, “I pity them greatly, but I must be mum, for how could we do without sugar and rum,”¹⁸ wrote English poet

¹²Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print

¹³ Barr, Andrew. "Drink: A Social History of America." *Books*. Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., 1999. Web. 05 Apr. 2016. <<http://www.nytimes.com/books/first/b/barr-drink.html>>.

¹⁴*Ibid.*

¹⁵Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print

¹⁶"Rum." *Liquor & Drink*. Liquoranddrink.com, 2016. Web. 11 Apr. 2016. <<http://liquoranddrink.com/ingredients/737-rum>>.

¹⁷*Ibid.*

¹⁸"William Cowper." AZQuotes.com. Wind and Fly LTD, 2016. 19 February 2016. <http://www.azquotes.com/quote/551162>

William Cowper in 1788.¹⁹ Ironically, this rum was used as the primary currency to purchase slaves in the Triangular Trade.²⁰

To connect the colonies to the motherland and to enable exchange through many regions, ships used the trade winds to reach destinations across the Atlantic. This was known as the Triangular Trade. (*See Appendix I*) From 1450-1750, the Triangular Trade exchanged goods and people between continents. Parliament passed a law in 1750 to increase Triangular Trade,

Whereas the Trade to and from Africa is very advantageous to Great Britain, and necessary for the supplying the Plantations and the Colonies... with sufficient Number of Negroes at reasonable Rates;... Therefore it be enacted... That it shall and may be lawful for all his Majesty's Subjects to trade and traffic to and from any Port or Place in Africa,... without any restraint whatsoever...²¹

This “triangle” primarily exchanged rum, molasses, and slaves between three corners or legs. The first leg stretched from either New England or England and connected with the west coast of Africa. African slaves would then be transported across the Atlantic, in what is now known as the abhorrent Middle Passage.²² Once in the Caribbean, the slaves were put to exhausting work growing and processing sugarcane.²³ The sugar produced was sent to Europe for everyday purposes, the byproduct, molasses, rendered by the slaves was shipped to New England to be fermented and distilled into the alcohol known as rum. Seeing as the triangle distributed molasses for the colonies’ fermentation and distillation, the colonists were dependent on the Triangular Trade as a primary factor in the exploration of their self-sufficient economy.

¹⁹ Davis, David Brion. "Pity for Poor Africans (1788)." *Pity for Poor Africans (1788)*. Yale University, n.d. Web. 26 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.cis.yale.edu/glc/aces/cowper.htm>>.

²⁰ Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print.

²¹ Perrin, Pat. *Slavery*. Carlisle, MA: Discovery Enterprises, 2000. Print.

²² An eighteenth century expounds that out of 7,904 slaves who embarked on a voyage 2,056 (26 percent) did not make it to the Americas. At least 2 million slaves died during the middle passage; not including the individuals who died in Africa or the Americas.

Perrin, Pat. *Slavery*. Carlisle, MA: Discovery Enterprises, 2000. Print.

²³ Palmer, Colin A. *The First Passage: Blacks in the Americas, 1502-1617*. New York: Oxford UP, 1995. Print.

Rum emerged as the most profitable manufactured item in New England, and soon became the basis of the economy.²⁴ At its economic peak in 1770, New England's 159 distilleries imported six million gallons of molasses from the Caribbean.²⁵ With production growing, the cost decreased as is typical in supply and demand systems. Rum became extremely cheap, cheaper than brandy, and was the most favored drink.²⁶ Boston Minister Increase Mather, noted in 1686, "It is an unhappy thing that in later years a King of Drink called Rum has been common among us. They that are poor, and wicked too, can for a penny or twopence make themselves drunk."²⁷ As the rum economy strengthened, New England merchants began to import molasses and distill the rum themselves. "The quantity of spirits which they distill in Boston from the molasses they import is as surprising as the cheapness at which they sell it, which is under two shillings a gallon; but they are more famous for the quantity cheapness than for the excellency of their rum,"²⁸ remarked one contemporary observer. The drink became the preferred alcoholic currency to purchase slaves from Africa.²⁹ An especially strong rum was brewed for the slave traders, making more profit in less volume. The colonies exploration of an independent economy had caught its footing from the exporting and importing of rum, and, as a result, the English colonies began to form their own economic identity separate from England.

During the formation of this new economy, New England imported sugar and molasses from French, rather than British Sugar Islands. France had banned rum distillation in order to

²⁴Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print

²⁵ *Back in the Mix: New England Rum*. The New York Times, 30 Oct. 2012. Web. 17 Feb. 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/31/dining/rum-returns-to-new-england.html?_r=1>.

²⁶Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print.

²⁷*Ibid.*

²⁸*Ibid.*

²⁹*Ibid.*

protect its domestic brandy industry, and was content to sell their high quality molasses to New England for a cheaper cost than Britain would allow.³⁰ The British were already losing to the French in the sugar market, and when they lost their own colonial market to their financial enemy, it only aggravated the mother country further.³¹ Parliament not only encountered their colonies slowly becoming a separate entity, but would soon face the growing colonial contempt that led to the American Revolution.

A series of laws known as the Navigation Acts incrementally limited foreign trade for the colonies, eventually leading to the heavy restriction of rum. The first act, the Navigation Act of 1651, restricted Dutch shipping; the Dutch were England's main competitor. The act was deemed void in 1660 by King Charles II, and was followed by the Navigation Act of 1660.³²

...no goods or commodities whatsoever shall be imported into or exported out of any lands, islands, plantations, or territories to his Majesty... in Asia, Africa, or America, in any other ship or ships, vessel or vessels whatsoever, but in such ships or vessels as do truly and without fraud belong only to the people of England...³³

This act maintained the restrictions set in 1651 while enumerating goods such as sugar, tobacco, cotton, wood, indigo, and ginger for exclusive shipment to English provinces or to the mainland itself.³⁴ The Navigation Act of 1663, also known as the Staple Act, stated that colonial exports must pass through English ports where the goods would be examined and taxed accordingly. The acts of 1673, 1696, and 1773 closed loopholes in each previous act, increased what had to be shipped through England, increased duties on goods, and granted vice-admiralty to

³⁰Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print.

³¹*Ibid.*

³²Alchin, Linda. "Navigation Acts." Navigation Act. Siteseen Ltd, Apr. 2015. Web. 6 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.landofthebrave.info/navigation-acts.htm>>

³³"Navigation Acts." *Digital History*. Digital History, 2016. Web. 12 Feb. 2016.

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=4102>.

³⁴Smith, Carmen Miner. "Navigation Acts (1651, 1660)." Navigation Acts (1651, 1660). Encyclopedia of North Carolina, 1 Jan. 2006. Web. 09 Feb. 2016.

<<http://ncpedia.org/navigation-acts-1651-1660>>.

New England to enforce the Navigation Acts.³⁵ The Molasses Act of 1733, possibly the most resented of the Navigation Acts, placed a high tax on foreign imported molasses and exported rum from the Northern Colonies.

[Taxes] shall be raised, levied, collected, and paid, unto and for the Use of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, upon all Rum or spirits of the Produce or Manufacture of any of the Colonies or Plantations in America³⁶

Parliament targeted the American sugar market to force them to buy from British sugar islands. French sugar islands³⁷ had a more fertile environment than neighboring islands in the Caribbean so they had a greater supply of sugarcane.³⁸ In order to reduce French influence and monopolize the sugar market in the colonies, Britain created the Molasses Act. The intent of the act was to discourage trade with France and other foreign regions through increased taxation, but the intention backfired. American colonists protested, declaring that the British West Indies sugar islands could not produce enough molasses to meet their demand. The act was largely circumvented through smuggling and bribing custom officials to allow illegal importation.³⁹ As result of the act, molasses prices in the colonies rose and citizens feared inflation on rum that would impede New England exports. If the laws were strictly enforced, the New England economy, heavily dependent on rum exports,⁴⁰ would have been crippled.⁴¹

³⁵Alchin, Linda. "Navigation Acts." Navigation Act. Siteseen Ltd, Apr. 2015. Web. 6 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.landofthebrave.info/navigation-acts.htm>>

³⁶ *Stamp Act*. WordPress, n.d. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.stamp-act-history.com/molasses-act/sugar-and-molasses-act-of-1733-original-text/>>.

³⁷ France founded colonies in the what we know as Saint Kitts, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Lucia, and Saint-Domingue, the richest sugar colony in the Caribbean.

"French Colonial Empires." *The Latin Library*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Mar. 2016.

<<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/imperialism/notes/frenchempire.html>>.

³⁸ "Molasses Act". Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Online.

Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2016. Web. 13 Feb. 2016

<<http://www.britannica.com/event/Molasses-Act>>.

³⁹Elson, Henry William. "Navigation Acts." History of the USA. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.usahistory.info/colonial/Navigation-Acts.html>>.

⁴⁰ Rum, at the economies peak, accounted for 80% of the colony's exports and imports.

Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print.

To avoid this, distillers began bypassing the laws. Thus an entire population and region became experienced in the art of smuggling. Even the customs officials could be seen as conniving in their jobs.⁴² In addition, colonists worked with pirates to circumvent regulatory acts by smuggling goods through various other channels, therefore avoiding taxing officials. However, colonists were not the only smugglers. Approximately 40,000 residents of Great Britain were engaged in the same activity; smuggling French silks and Indian tea.⁴³ On moral grounds, England could not reproach America.⁴⁴ The Navigation Acts were a political and economic blunder. The acts encouraged smuggling, which led the colonists to look at England's Parliament with disdain because it was not able to enforce its own laws.⁴⁵ This exchange of rebellious acts by the colonists against British regulatory laws placed on colonial trade sparked the split of colony from motherland, otherwise known as the American Revolution.

Britain, perhaps the most powerful country of this period, encountered a new quandary when their self-serving acts backfired. The Declaration of Independence accuses, "For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent...We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold

⁴¹*Stamp Act*. WordPress, n.d. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.stamp-act-history.com/molasses-act/sugar-and-molasses-act-of-1733-original-text/>>.

⁴² Elson, Henry William. "Navigation Acts." History of the USA. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.usahistory.info/colonial/Navigation-Acts.html>>.

⁴³*Ibid*.

⁴⁴ Not all of the laws were against the colonies. Parliament forbade the growing of tobacco in England and kept the Spanish tobacco out with high duties. Although, in the beginning, this was primarily because tobacco was offensive to the monarch, but later on, the regulations remained in effect to protect the colonies.

Elson, Henry William. "Navigation Acts." History of the USA. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.usahistory.info/colonial/Navigation-Acts.html>>.

⁴⁵In order to focus on their own politics and further solidify their stance as a world superpower, Britain commenced an unofficial policy later named Salutary Neglect. The unofficial policy loosened its hold on the colonies by relaxing restrictions, particularly on trading laws, which gave the colonies room to form their independent American identity. In order to pay for the massive war debt from the French and Indian War, the British began to enforce taxing acts, including the Navigation Acts.

Henretta, James. "Salutary Neglect." Encyclopedia Virginia. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 18 Jan. 2012. Web. 14 Feb. 2016.

the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.”⁴⁶ Benjamin Franklin alluded to dire consequences for excessive regulation, “You will take for your own sakes not to lay greater burdens on us than we can bear; for you cannot hurt us without hurting your selves.”⁴⁷

British regulation of New England’s rum trade through the Navigation Acts was the key factor that ignited the American Revolution. In search of economic independence, New England began to explore a new economy. New England built an economic foundation on rum and the Triangular Trade with the Caribbean and African slave traders. When Britain restricted and limited this trade, and therefore, the New England economy, the colonies began to resent Parliament. The colonists encountered an overbearing mother country, while Parliament encountered colonial opposition and reacted with taxation and economic restriction. Acts of rebellion and regulation were exchanged, and through this opposition and regulation, the American Revolution began. Today, we still know “Liberty Tea” as a drink of revolutionary protest, but the alcoholic drink of rum rightfully deserves the title Revolutionary Rum. John Adams writing to a friend affirms, “I know not why we should blush to confess that molasses was an essential ingredient in American independence. Many great events have proceeded from much smaller causes.”⁴⁸

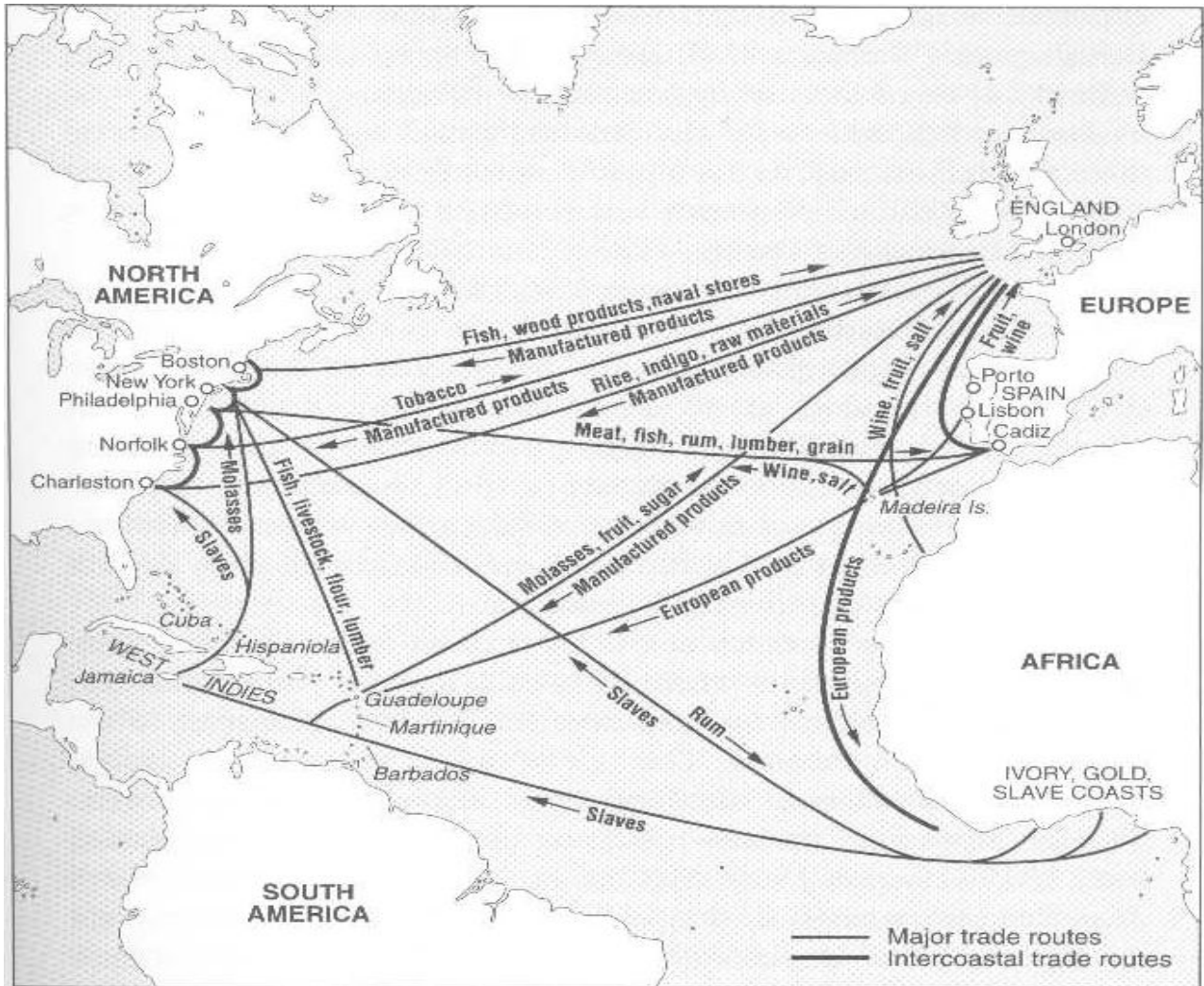
⁴⁶“Declaration of Independence.” The Charters of Freedom. National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Web. 18 Feb. 2016. <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html>.

⁴⁷Trethewey, Richard J. "The Economic Burden of the Sugar Act." *The American Economist* Vol. 13.No. 1 (1969): 63-71. *JSTOR*. Web. 5 May 2016.

⁴⁸ Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print.

Appendix

Appendix 1



This image displays the major and intercoastal triangular trade routes. Referring to the map above, one major trade route exchanges rum for slaves, slaves to produce molasses, and molasses to be distilled into rum.

Gestewicki, Christian, Chris Perry, Nicole Recore, and Alyssa Supranowicz. "The Middle Passage and Slave Ships." The Middle Passage and Slave Ships. N.p., n.d. Web. 12 Feb. 2016. <<http://public.gettysburg.edu/~tshannon/hist106web/site2/middlepassage.htm>>

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Barr, Andrew. "Drink: A Social History of America." *Books*. Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., 1999. Web. 05 Apr. 2016. <<http://www.nytimes.com/books/first/b/barr-drink.html>>.

This source provided me with several quotes about alcohol/ water drinking customs of the English. I learned that drinking water was not only dangerous but looked down upon. I used these quotes and information to describe why the colonists turned to rum.

Biography.com Editors. "Olaudah Equiano Biography." <i>The Biography.com Website</i>. A&E Networks Television, n.d. Web. 19 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.biography.com/people/olaudah-equiano-39207>>.

This source provided a portrait of the slave Olaudah Equiano which I had originally used in previous drafts of my paper. This now serves as a helpful background image.

Crews, Ed. "History.org: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Official History and Citizenship Website." *Drinking in Colonial America*. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2016. Web. 14 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.history.org/foundation/journal/holiday07/drink.cfm>>.

This source taught me why the Americans thought rum was the best fit for the colonists. I did not use this source directly into my paper, but rather built a deeper background on: why rum? From this source, I also gathered a quote on the quality of colonial water.

Dalton, Kyle. "Newman's Best Virginia Tobacco Label, Mid- Eighteenth Century." *British Tars*. Blogger, 25 Jan. 2014. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.

<<http://britishtars.blogspot.com/2014/01/newmans-best-virginia-tobacco-label-mid.htm?m=1>>.

This source provided and described an educational advertisement of tobacco in the American Colonies. This source also described the source in incredible detail, all the way down to the absence of loops and accessories on the sailor's hat.

Davis, David Brion. "Pity for Poor Africans (1788)." Pity for Poor Africans (1788). Yale University, n.d. Web. 26 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.cis.yale.edu/glc/aces/cowper.htm>>. This source by Yale University presented the poem and date from William Cowper named "Pity for Poor Africans." I used this when I emphasized the known importance of rum.

"Declaration of Independence." The Charters of Freedom. National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Web. 18 Feb. 2016. <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html>.

I borrowed a section of the *Declaration of Independence* from this source. The website provided the entire text of the *Declaration of Independence*. I used two parts of the *Declaration of Independence*, the actual declaration of independence and one reason why (for taxing colonial trade). I used this to prove that this taxing was one of the substantial reasons for the American Revolution.

Gestewicki, Christian, Chris Perry, Nicole Recore, and Alyssa Supranowicz. "The Middle Passage and Slave Ships." The Middle Passage and Slave Ships. N.p., n.d. Web. 12 Feb. 2016. <<http://public.gettysburg.edu/~tshannon/hist106web/site2/middlepassage.htm>>

This source educated the viewer on the Middle Passage and provided an image on the two primary routes of the Triangular Trade. I borrowed an image that reflected the major routes that were often used, which I placed in my index.

Johnson, Robert. "Nova Britannia." Internet Archive. Internet Archive, n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2016. This source provided a New World advertisement, specifically for Virginia. The ad proclaims that there are "Excellent Fruites" and that Virginia is "Offring Most." I used this in my paragraph when I explain why colonists moved to the Americas.

"Navigation Acts." *Digital History*. Digital History, 2016. Web. 12 Feb. 2016. <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=4102>.

This provided the actual text excerpts of the Navigation Acts, which not only provided primary sources but some reliable background information from I can refer.

Stamp Act. WordPress, n.d. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.stamp-act-history.com/molasses-act/sugar-and-molasses-act-of-1733-original-text/>>.

This source provided text from the Molasses Act.

Standage, Tom. *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*. New York: Walker, 2005. Print.

This book was written about drinks that built America. In the book, one can find several information-soaked pages about rum's effect on the revolution and its relation to the New England colonies as well as England. Mr. Standage also describes the evolution of rum in the colonies and how it became the basis of the economy. This source provided many valuable quotes and statistics related directly to my topic. This source helped strengthen my entire paper and strengthen my background on this topic.

Trethewey, Richard J. "The Economic Burden of the Sugar Act." *The American Economist* Vol. 13.No. 1 (1969): 63-71. *JSTOR*. Web. 5 May 2016.

This academic journal reviewed and expounded the effects of the Sugar Act on the colonists. Besides receiving knowledgeable information on the Sugar Act and its effects, I used a Benjamin Franklin quote which argued that if the mother country decided to regulate the colonies, it would only hurt them in the end. This was a very beneficial quote in my paper.

"William Cowper." AZQuotes.com. Wind and Fly LTD, 2016. 19 February 2016.

<http://www.azquotes.com/quote/551162>

This source provided a quote from the poet William Cowper referencing slaves to rum. Cowper says that if there were no slaves, they would have no rum.

Secondary Sources:

Alchin, Linda. "Navigation Acts." Navigation Act. Siteseen Ltd, Apr. 2015. Web. 6 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.landofthebrave.info/navigation-acts.htm>>

I used this to further explain why England turned to the Navigation Acts. This source explained the individual Navigation Acts and how each of them individually affected the New World colonies. I used this source when I described each act individually as well as the intent of each act.

Alchin, Linda. "Salutary Neglect." *Land of the Brave*. Siteseen Ltd, Apr. 2015. Web. 20 Mar.

2016. <<http://www.landofthebrave.info/salutary-neglect.htm>>.

This educational site expounded to me the causes of Salutary Neglect and how Britain tried to reverse its effects. I used this information in my footnotes to further educate the reader on Salutary Neglect.

Back in the Mix: New England Rum. The New York Times, 30 Oct. 2012. Web. 17 Feb. 2016.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/31/dining/rum-returns-to-new-england.html?_r=1>.

I used this source when citing the surprising statistic that 159 distilleries could be found when New England hit its economic peak.

"British Involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade." The Abolition Project. MLA East of England, 2009. Web. 09 Feb. 2016.

This site taught me about the beginning and end of British involvement in the Triangular Trade. I learned that in the beginning Britain shipped slaves for the Portuguese and Spanish but, gradually, they needed slaves of their own. The source also talked about Captain John Hawkins, the first British slave trade captain, and the percentage of profits made by every group of individuals during the slave trade. I used this source as background on the British slave trade.

"British Reforms and Colonial Resistance, 1763-1766." *Library of Congress*. Library of Congress. Web. 22 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/britref/>>.

This source helped provide a reliable background on what caused the Sugar and Staple acts. I learned that Britain was in such a deep debt after the French and Indian War that they needed a new source of money, which ended in the taxing of the colonies. Although I do not reference this directly in my paper, I have relayed back to this information to increase my background knowledge.

"Chattel." Merriam-Webster.com. Merriam-Webster. Web. 19 Feb. 2016.

This source defined the slavery form of chattel, which I learned, is a European form of slavery where the slave is treated as a piece of property and typically has a life sentence as a slave. This was valuable background for the slave trade.

Elson, Henry William. "Navigation Acts." History of the USA. Web. 9 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.usahistory.info/colonial/Navigation-Acts.html>>.

This source provided information on the causes and effects of the Navigation Acts. I used this source primarily when writing about how the acts and laws were avoided and why the people began to turn against Parliament.

"European Colonization Around the World." Lands of Our Land. Indian Land Tenure Foundation, 2016. Web. 20 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.lessonsofourland.org/lessons/european-colonization-around-world>>.

This source educated about what advantages were gained from the Age of Exploration and the new way of exploring: ships/ sailing. I used this source in my footnotes to clarify that England was not the only colonizing country.

Fort San Cristobal Park Ranger. "Puerto Rico." Personal interview. 24 Nov. 2015.

When I was in Puerto Rico, I was fortunate to benefit from an in-person interview with a park ranger at Fort San Cristobal. She educated me on the effects of Christopher Columbus

and his men on the Tainos(Puerto Rican natives). Although this information does not directly relate to my topic, I kept this information in mind while writing my paper.

"French Colonial Empires." *The Latin Library*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Mar. 2016.

<<http://www.thelatinlibrary.com/imperialism/notes/frenchempire.html>>.

This source educated me on early French colonialism. I used this information as an extra description in my footnotes on the French colonies in the Caribbean.

Henretta, James. "Salutary Neglect." *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 18 Jan. 2012. Web. 14 Feb. 2016.

This source defined and explained to me Salutary Neglect and its effects on colonial America. I learned that Salutary Neglect was an unwritten policy the British followed to relax its hold on the colonies and to spend more time furthering their role as a world superpower. The unintended effect was that this gave the colonies room to form their own American identity. I used this information in my footnotes to explain the role of Salutary Neglect in bringing about the American Revolution.

Hysmithf, Katherine. "The Historic Rum Trade." T.e.l.l. New England. T.e.l.l. New England, 2015. Web. 13 Jan. 2016.

This source educated me on uses of sugar in both Europe and New England. I also received a small bit information on the Navigation Acts and the author's opinion on why they were written. This source built the foundation of my background.

Gestewicki, Christian, Chris Perry, Nicole Recore, and Alyssa Supranowicz. "The Middle Passage and Slave Ships." *The Middle Passage and Slave Ships*. Web. 12 Feb. 2016.

This source expounded about the hardships of a slave and the harshness of the Middle Passage. I learned that the conditions were so severe that slaves were constantly attempting suicide and revolting against the slave handlers. This source added to my known information on the Middle Passage and the life of a slave.

Klein, Christopher. "10 Things You May Not Know About the Boston Tea Party." History.com. A&E Television Networks, 14 Dec. 2012. Web. 12 Apr. 2016.
<<http://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-boston-tea-party#>>
This article expounded unknown or uncommon facts about the Boston Tea Party. This source provided background on why the colonists were protesting and how the event was looked down upon for the following 50 years.

Kohn, Margaret. "Colonialism". *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 09 May 2006. Web. 13 Feb. 2016. <<http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2014/entries/colonialism/>>.
The source provided the definition of colonialism which I used to explain why Europe settled the Americas.

Lesson of Our Land. Indian Land Tenure Foundation, 2016. Web. 20 Feb. 2016.
<<http://www.lessonsofourland.org/lessons/european-colonization-around-world>>.
Through the form of a lesson plan, this source explained that England was not the only country colonizing the globe. Russia, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal, and other civilizations were trying to conquer colonies. I used this information in a footnote when I talked about other countries benefitting from colonialism.

"Molasses Act". Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica Online. Encyclopædia Britannica Inc., 2016. Web. 13 Feb. 2016
<<http://www.britannica.com/event/Molasses-Act>>.
This encyclopedia entry described what the Molasses Act was, why it was enforced, and how it was circumvented. I used this source when describing how France had a larger supply of sugarcane than other Caribbean islands.

Palmer, Colin A. *The First Passage: Blacks in the Americas, 1502-1617*. New York: Oxford UP, 1995. Print.
This novel taught me about African Americans being brought into the Americas. I used this source when describing where most slaves were put to work.

Perrin, Pat. *Slavery*. Carlisle, MA: Discovery Enterprises, 2000. Print.

This book not only described the average day of a slave but also the route to slavery. Perrin described the capturing of the slaves and provided knowledgeable background on the young slave Olaudah Equiano.

Perrin, Pat. *Spanish Explorers*. Carlisle, M: Discovery Enterprises, 2003. Print.

This source provided a short biography on several of the most famous Spanish explorers. However, this source also taught me about why individuals would want to settle the Americas, including and defining primogeniture and mercantilism.

Perry, Dr. Leonard. "Liberty Tea." Liberty Tea. University of Vermont, n.d. Web. 12 Apr. 2016.

<http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/articles/liberty.html>.

This source explained to me the background and cause for Liberty Tea, along with the ingredients and differences from real tea. I used this source to explain how tea unrightfully possesses the revolutionary title.

Pocock, Nigel, and Victoria Cook. "The Business of Enslavement." *BBC News: History*.

BBC, 2014. Web. 20 Feb. 2016.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/abolition/slavery_business_gallery_11.shtml.

This source gave a biographical information on John Hawkins. This article also provided details on the advantages of slave trading and some additional insight on the life of a slaver.

Prabhat S. "Difference Between Colonialism and Imperialism." DifferenceBetween.net. July 28, 2011

<http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/difference-between-colonialism-and-imperialism/>.

This source educated me on the difference between imperialism and colonialism. Using this source, I know that colonialism is the practice of gaining control over another region, while imperialism is the method of gaining control.

Raphael, Ray. "Debunking Boston Tea Party Myths." HistoryNet. HistoryNet, 01 Apr. 2010. Web. 12 Apr. 2016. <<http://www.historynet.com/debunking-boston-tea-party-myths.htm>>.

This source, written on the myths of the Boston Tea Party, provided valuable background on the misconceptions of the event, which further aided me in the writing of my historical paper.

Richardson, Bruce. "Liberty Teas of Colonial Boston." Boston Tea Party: A Revolutionary Experience. Historic Tours of America, Inc., 30 Jan. 2013. Web. 10 Feb. 2016.

I used this source to research a revolutionary name for tea which I used in my thesis to compare the effects of rum and tea. I also used this in my conclusion when discussing how rum deserves the revolutionary title rather than tea.

"Rum." *Liquor & Drink*. Liquoranddrink.com, 2016. Web. 11 Apr. 2016. <<http://liquoranddrink.com/ingredients/737-rum>>.

This website educated the reader on the history of rum along with the different ways to distill it. I learned that rum was first used as a medicine before it was a pleasurable beverage, and that it was so harsh of a drink that it was named Kill Devil.

Rum, Trade, Rights, and the Environment. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2016. <<http://www1.american.edu/ted/rum.htm>>.

The source gave me valuable insight on how rum affected the New England economy. Although the source was primarily a study, there was a short paragraph on the definition of the rum trade and the Triangular Trade.

Smith, Carmen Miner. "Navigation Acts (1651, 1660)." Navigation Acts (1651, 1660). Encyclopedia of North Carolina, 1 Jan. 2006. Web. 09 Feb. 2016. <<http://ncpedia.org/navigation-acts-1651-1660>>.

This source clarified the purpose and effects of the Navigation Act of 1660. I used this when I was giving a short definition on that specific act of 1660.

Smith, Frederick H. "Rum". In Oxford Bibliographies in Atlantic History. 11-Apr-2016.

<<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199730414/obo-9780199730414-0155.xml>>.

This article describes the history of the drink rum. I used this source to explain the hardships of the colonies and the importance of an alcoholic drink.

Smith, Gregg. "Brewing In Colonial America - Part I." *Brewing in Colonial America- Part I*.

BeerHistory.com, 2007. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.

<<http://beerhistory.com/library/holdings/greggsmith1.shtml>>.

This source taught me about how colonists managed local brewery in the colonies. I learned that ships even brought their own brewers to the New World and that they only stopped beer and cider production because they ran out of natural resources. I used this information when explaining why colonists began to explore a new source of alcohol.

"The Middle Passage". U.S. History: Pre-Columbian to the New Millennium. U.S History.org, 2014. <www.ushistory.org/us/6b.asp> January 26, 2016. \

I used this source because it taught me how the slaves were treated in the Middle Passage and the horrific conditions they faced.

"Trade Winds". NOAA Ocean service education. U.S. Department of Commerce, March 28 2008. <oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/currents/05currents2.html> January 26, 2016.

I used this source because it gave me insight on the trade winds, which were responsible for the Triangular Trade routes. I did not use this in my paper, but I was interested in what and where the trade winds are.

Ushistory.org. Independence Hall Association, 2014. Web. 14 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/revwartimeline.htm>>.

This source provided a timeline of revolutionary acts. This helped me get a stronger background on how the Navigation Acts influenced future events and what events led up to the Revolutionary War.

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. Winterthur Museum, 2009. Web. 18 Feb. 2016.

<http://www.winterthur.org/?p=737>.

This source talked about early alcohol consumption in the colonies. I learned colonists did not give up their love of alcohol when they settled in America, rather they brought their love of cider and beer with them. I used this when I mentioned why they turned to the drink rum in my paper.

White, David. "Triangular Trade." *Triangular Trade*. Social Studies for Kids, 2009. Web. 17 Feb.

2016. <<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/triangulartrade.htm>>.

I used this source for creating a deeper understanding of the Triangular Trade.