Study Guide #4 on British Dominance

Spanish Ownership

- Intercætera papal bull 1493: Pope Alexander VI granted the rights to Spain over the “new land”; All lands to the "west and south" of a pole-to-pole line 100 leagues west and south of any of the islands of the Azores or the Cape Verde islands; Control and convert the peoples of the new territory.

- Treaty of Tordesillas 1494: Divided the “new land” between Spain and Portugal; 100 degrees west of the Cape Verde Islands; Spain controlled all lands to the west; Portugal controlled all land to the east.

- Reformation: Break in the Catholic Church; Protestants rose to prominence; Protestants hated Catholics and felt no respect for the pope; Protestants felt free to explore the “new world.”

- Pirates and privateering: Early pirates only attacked Spanish ships (FRENCH FIRST); Privateering: Privateering= fighting and thieving at sea but with a permit/commission from the government.

- Buccaneering: Treaty of Madrid 1670= The English outlawed Piracy; Buccaneers gave no allegiance to any nation and were willing to be hired as mercenaries

- Buccaneer bases: Providence Island off the Coast of Nicaragua, Tortuga, Haiti began as a refuge for boucaneers of Hispanola, Port Royal, Jamiaca- founded by Boucaneers running away from Tortuga, British Honduras

British Baymen

- Why the Spanish did not settle British Honduras? The Maya resisted Spanish incursions in Chactemal and Rio Dulce; The closest forth that the Spanish had included Bacalar; They focused on extracting precious metals in other parts of the Americas; British Honduras was a swampy area.

- Buccaneers: Before coming to British Honduras they settled Laguna de Terminos in the Yucatan Peninsula.

- Why British Honduras? 1. it was further away from the Spanish center of military power; 2. it was an ideal position for them to raid the Spanish ships; 3. The Spanish naval powers could not persecute the pirates into the treacherous sea area of British Honduras.

- Settlement Area: Mouth of the Belize River near present day Belize City; Used it as base by 1638; Did not plan on staying.

- Settlers: A group of self-centered, ill-mannered, and lawless exploiters that did not care about the area; Customs of the Bay: simple laws to manage behavior between baymen.

Rise of Logwood
- Treaty of Madrid: Outlawed piracy = Europeans persecuted pirates/buccaneers; The buccaneers gained the right to keep and settle within the areas they possessed within the western hemisphere; British gaining first “legal” rights over lands.

- Palo de tinte or palo de Campeche: The British decided to stay within this area to harvest logwood; Logwood produced various colors and the woolen industry had large demands; An era of “dandyism” spread in Europe.

- Logwood’s importance: Buccaneers found it more profitable and less risky; St. George’s Caye was the Capital and centre for Public Meetings; The Haulover Creek was the center of trade; the Buccaneers went in land (logwood grew clustered) and used the river to transport their logs.

- Location Laws: The location land laws were the system of land distribution used by the early settlers; the settlers held lands near the rivers and creeks so that their product could be transported to the mouth of the Belize River.

- 1765 rules for claiming land: when a person finds an unoccupied logwood spot, he builds his hut and that spot shall be deemed his property. Following the line of the river; No person shall presume to cut anything within a thousand paces/yards of his hut; No inhabitant shall occupy two works at a time in any one river; No inhabitant shall claim a double portion of logwood works (under pretense of a partner); these laws were changed to follow a straight line of 2 thousand yards to be started and end at the riverside.

- Decline of logwood: During the 1700’s the logwood economy declined

Causes: Over Production= competition from India =Unprofitable; Asians created artificial dye=cheaper; A high demand for Mahogany

Rise of Mahogany
- Used in the furniture industry and in the ship building industry= high demand; The Baymen focused on Mahogany extraction; The baymen took larger parcels of land; Forestocracy: a small number of rich, white landlords that controlled the settlement’s economic and political activity.

- Demands of Mahogany: Larger Parcels of land = expanding the settlement; A larger Labor force; Larger investments.

- Location Laws: When mahogany became the principal product that was being extracted the laws as it relates to land distribution. It was agreed: Three miles in a straight line is to be considered a Mahogany work; Each and every ten able negro men slaves provided for two years of work or more; If a location is not possessed or occupied within 6 months the locations is to be deemed unoccupied.

Expanding the Settlement
- Treaty of Paris 1763: British extracted logwood without any legal permission from the Spanish; Signed between England and Spain; The Treaty of Paris gave the British right to Cut, load, and carry logwood; The Spanish re-stated that they were the owners and directed the British to demolish all buildings
The treaty of Versailles 1783: Spain allowed the Baymen to cut logwood in the area between Belize and Hondo River; For the first time a border was being designated; All buildings were to be destroyed; Spain owned the territory; British could cut, load and carry logwood.

Convention of London 1786: Signed between England and Spain; This treaty extended the boundary southwards to the Sibun River; The Baymen could now cut and load not only logwood but Mahogany; The British agreed to evacuate the Misquito Shore; No plantations were to be cultivated in the Honduras settlement; Spain Owned the territory; No construction could happen.