

The Viceroyalty of New Spain

Role: The Bureaucrats & Jurists **Character Cue:** You are university-trained lawyers and administrators. You value order, hierarchy, and legal precedent. You represent the King's direct authority.

I. The Imperial Mandate

- **Consolidation:** You must consolidate the Crown's gains immediately following the discovery of precious metals, especially the richest silver deposit in the world at Potosí located at 13,433 feet above sea level.
- **Governance:** You are not a loose collection of trading posts; you are a Kingdom. You will be governed by **Viceroy**s (who stand in symbolically for the King) and **Audiencias** (courts of judges).
- **Bureaucracy:** You will establish a complex bureaucracy to keep the colonies connected to the motherland.

II. Economic Policy (The Engine)

- **The Resource: Silver and Gold.** This is the priority. These metals finance the empire.
- **The System:** You view the colonial economy as a "**closed mercantile system**"—all wealth flows to Spain.
- **Production:** You will develop a "mining-ranching complex" centered on Haciendas, especially in Mexico. The economy is export-oriented but must also be self-sufficient.

III. Social & Religious Order

- **The Two Republics:** Society is divided into the "Republic of Indians" and the "Republic of Spaniards".
- **Religion:** Catholicism is the "common cultural touchstone" in your multiethnic society. There is no room for religious dissenters.
- **Demographics:** You have a "surplus of male European settlers".
 - *Result:* You accept **Mestizaje** (mixing).
 - *Definition:* **Mestizos** are children of Indigenous women and Spanish men. **Mulattos** are children of Spanish men and African or African-descended women.
 - *Policy:* You do not outlaw interracial marriage; **social class matters more**. You will eventually use the term **Casta** to categorize these racial types.

New France

Role: The Traders & Diplomats **Character Cue:** You are pragmatic survivalists, Jesuits, and military explorers. You are outnumbered and far from home. You value alliance and adaptability over rigid rules.

I. The Royal Mandate

- **Mission:** Renew France's efforts at colonizing the Americas following the Wars of Religion.
- **Reality Check:** Life here is "very difficult and lonely". You have a significantly smaller population than the British and Spanish.
- **Strategy:** You cannot conquer by force. Your survival depends entirely on **alliances with Indigenous inhabitants.**

II. Economic Policy

- **The Resource: Beaver Pelts.** This is the most significant commodity.
- **The Logistics:** You rely on the St. Lawrence River (Quebec, 1608) as your artery.
- **Food Security:** You rely far more on Indigenous allies for food stores than the English do.

III. Social & Religious Order

- **The "Middle Ground":** You occupy a space of negotiation, not domination.
- **The Agents:**
 - **Jesuit Missionaries:** Sent to convert Indigenous inhabitants to Roman Catholicism, often by living among them.
 - **Military Explorers:** Follow the missionaries to map the land.
- **Relations:** Unlike the English, you often intermarry to secure trade ties (*Métissage*), though your population remains small.

British North America (Virginia)

Role: The Planters & Investors **Character Cue:** You are investors and land-owners. You are initially driven by profit, then by land acquisition for families. You value property rights and separation.

I. The Company Mandate

- **Origin:** You are funded by **Joint-Stock Companies** (absentee investors) expecting a return on investment.
- **Transition:** You begin as a business venture (Jamestown, 1607) but will evolve into a Royal Colony after a major Indigenous uprising in 1622 that kills as much as 1/3rd of your population.
- **Conflict:** Conflicts with local Indians started early and will not be resolved quickly.

II. Economic Policy (The Engine)

- **The Savior: Tobacco.** Exports of this crop saved the colony from ruin.
- **The Labor Force:**
 - *Phase 1: Indentured Servants* (English poor) are the primary labor force until 1676. They exchange their freedom for passage to the colony and a promise of land after their service is over (typically seven years).
 - *Phase 2:* After Bacon's Rebellion, you shift to **Enslaved Africans**.
- **Land Use:** Tobacco destroys the soil and requires large tracts of land, forcing you to constantly expand westward. This brings you into increasing conflict with Indigenous communities.

III. Social & Religious Order

- **Separation:** You displace and massacre Indigenous groups rather than incorporating them.
- **The "Color Line":**
 - Sexual relationships across color lines are relatively rare.
 - Racial mixture is typically "illicit" (white men/enslaved women).
 - **The Law:** You pass **anti-miscegenation laws** dating to the 17th century. Racial codes are rigidly enforced.

