

MAIN POINTS & CHRONOLOGY OF

CHAMPLAIN IN THE CARIBBEAN

1598-1601



#CHAMPLAIN1615

MAIN POINTS

- ✘ DURING THIS TRIP, CHAMPLAIN ACTS A BIT LIKE A SPY NOTING THE STRENGTH OF THE SPANIARDS IN THEIR NEW WORLD COLONIES AND THE RESOURCES THEY ARE EXPLOITING THERE, WITH THE AIM OF SHARING THIS INFORMATION WITH THE FRENCH KING HENRY IV.
- ✘ CHAMPLAIN OBSERVES AND ADMIRES THE SEAMANSHIP OF THE SPANISH MARINERS AND BECOMES FAMILIAR WITH TRANSATLANTIC NAVIGATION.
- ✘ HE MAKES MANY OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS HE SEES.
- ✘ IN 1599, CHAMPLAIN ATTEMPTS TO MEET ABORIGINAL PEOPLE FOR THE FIRST TIME. HE SHOWS HIS INTEREST IN GETTING TO KNOW THEM.
- ✘ CHAMPLAIN OBSERVES AND CONDEMNS THE WAY THE SPANIARDS TREAT THE ABORIGINALS. HE SEES HOW THE NATIVES ARE FORCED TO WORK AS PEARL DIVERS AND AS MINERS. HE NOTES THAT THE SPANISH ACT LIKE RELIGIOUS TYRANTS: THE CATHOLIC PRIESTS BEAT THE NATIVES WHO DON'T ATTEND MASS.
- ✘ CHAMPLAIN STARTS TO DEVELOP HIS MORE HUMANE VISION OF ABORIGINALS IN THE AMERICAS.
- ✘ FOLLOWING THIS VOYAGE, CHAMPLAIN OBTAINS THE FAVOUR OF KING HENRY IV WHO REWARDS HIM WITH A PENSION.

This chronology uses information and text found on pages 364 to 371 of the book, ***Champlain: The Birth of French America***.

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CHRONOLOGY



JULY 14, 1598

Troops stationed in Brittany (in Blavet, today Port-Louis in Morbihan) are transported to Spain by the captain Guillaume Allène, Champlain's uncle. Champlain arrives in Cadix, on the southwest coast of Spain on the *Saint-Julien*.

FEBRUARY 3, 1599

The *Saint-Julien* sails from Sanlucar de Barrameda to the West Indies on the order of the king of Spain, Philip II. Champlain embarks without his uncle and, for two and a half years, travels around the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.

MARCH 1599

After a voyage of 6 weeks, the ship arrives at La Désirade an island 8 km from Guadeloupe.

APRIL 1599 TO AUGUST 1600

A number of trips with stays at various ports including Porto Rico, Haïti, Havana (Cuba) and Vera Cruz (east coast of Mexico).



AUGUST 11, 1600

Champlain is back in Cadix in Spain

1601

Champlain returns to France. His observations, in the form of a manuscript accompanied by drawings, are contained in the *Brief Discours*, which is presented to the members of the Court.



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