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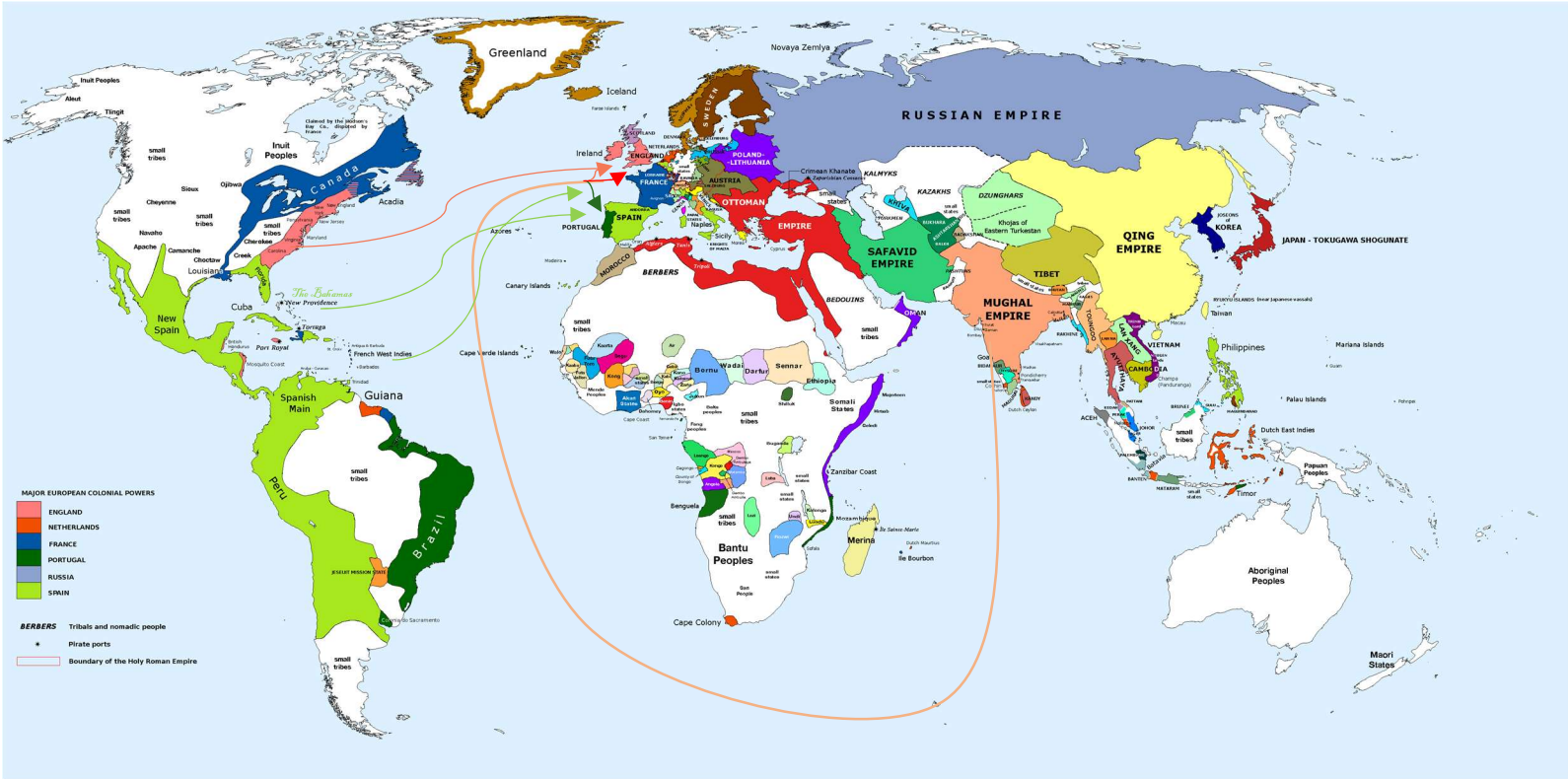

According to *Cotton.org* Cotton is found growing in the Bahamas as the time of Columbus' discovery of America in 1492. Yet it will take almost another 400 years before American cotton graces the unwanting shore of a British port in Liverpool. However, already well established Indian trade routes were furnishing Portuguese, Dutch and British ports with raw cotton as well as cotton cloth. This was traded through companies such as the East India company.

Due to the European climate, they were relegated to clothing made up of wool or other fibers as cotton could not grow in this region of the world. Beforehand, they were also accustomed to utilizing the European colonies that were established in the 'New World' on the western hemisphere. Here, they found the ability to grow cotton in the more amiable climate and soil of "Barbados, Saint Dominge (now Haiti), Martinique, Cuba and Jamaica." (The Story of Cotton)

"Cotton seed are *<u>believed</u>* to have been planted in Florida in 1556 and in Virginia in 1607. By 1616, colonists were growing cotton along the James River in Virginia." (The Story of Cotton) Majority of the European colonies which produced the world's supply of cotton and many other commodities during this time were done so through the exploitation of slave labor from either the indigenous people or Africans transported via the transatlantic slave trade routes.

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