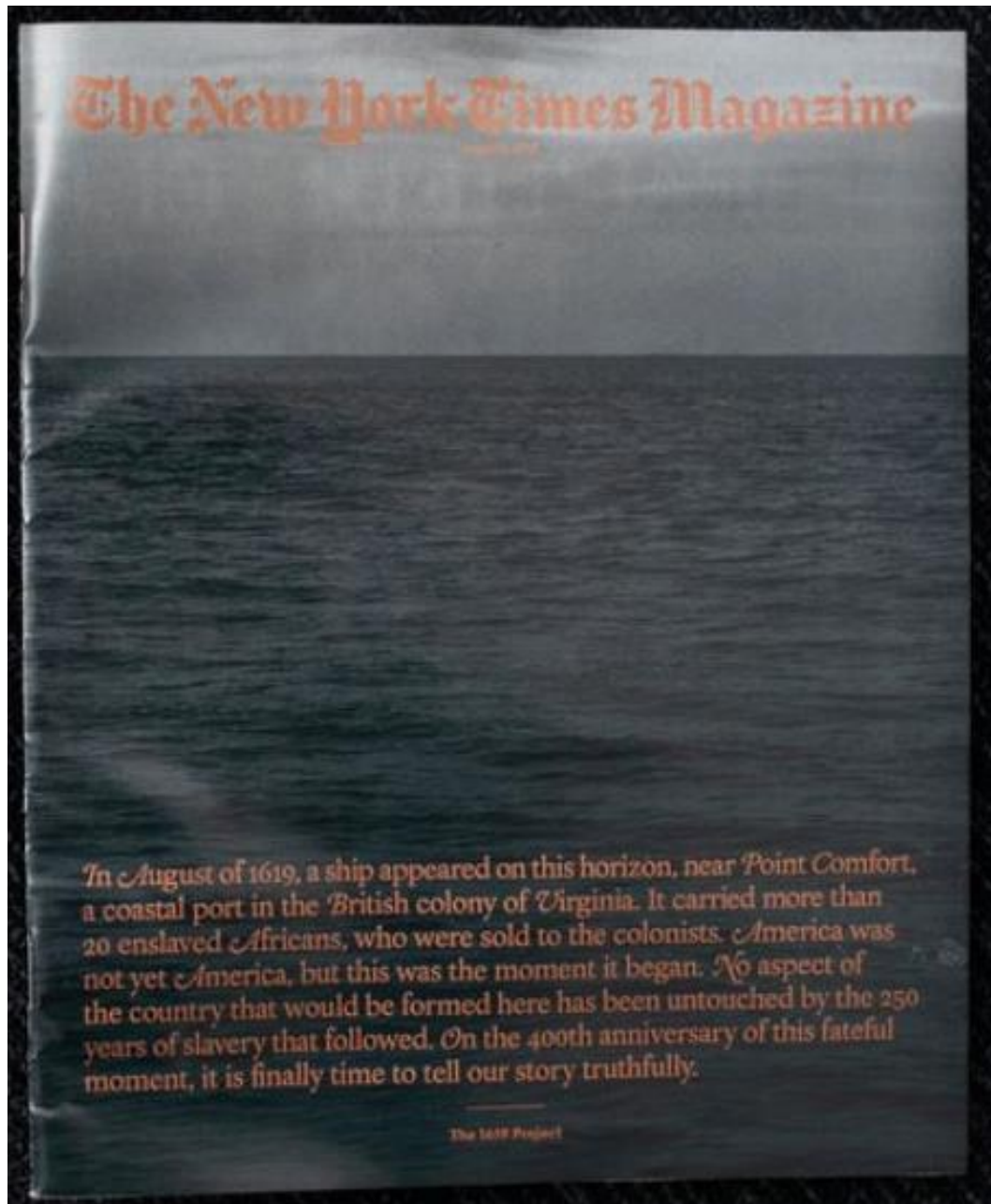


An Accident of Piracy

The Angolans brought to Virginia in 1619 were an accident of time and place. The two English pirate ships (corsairs, at the time) which took 60 captives total from the San Juan Bautista off the coast of Campeche had attacked because her construction and size “profiled” the ship as a treasure ship. They expected gold and silver in the hold, not humans.

They took only 30 each (of the 207 surviving captives) because, as fighting ships, they were not built with “passengers” in mind. Their stores were in guns, ammo and food enough for a fighting crew, no more. They headed for Port Comfort because they were owned by Lord Rich, a major stockholder in the Virginia Company, and who was behind their piracy. The “20 and odd” was a report back to the King and it was a lie to conceal Lord Rich’s privateering, especially against the Spanish.

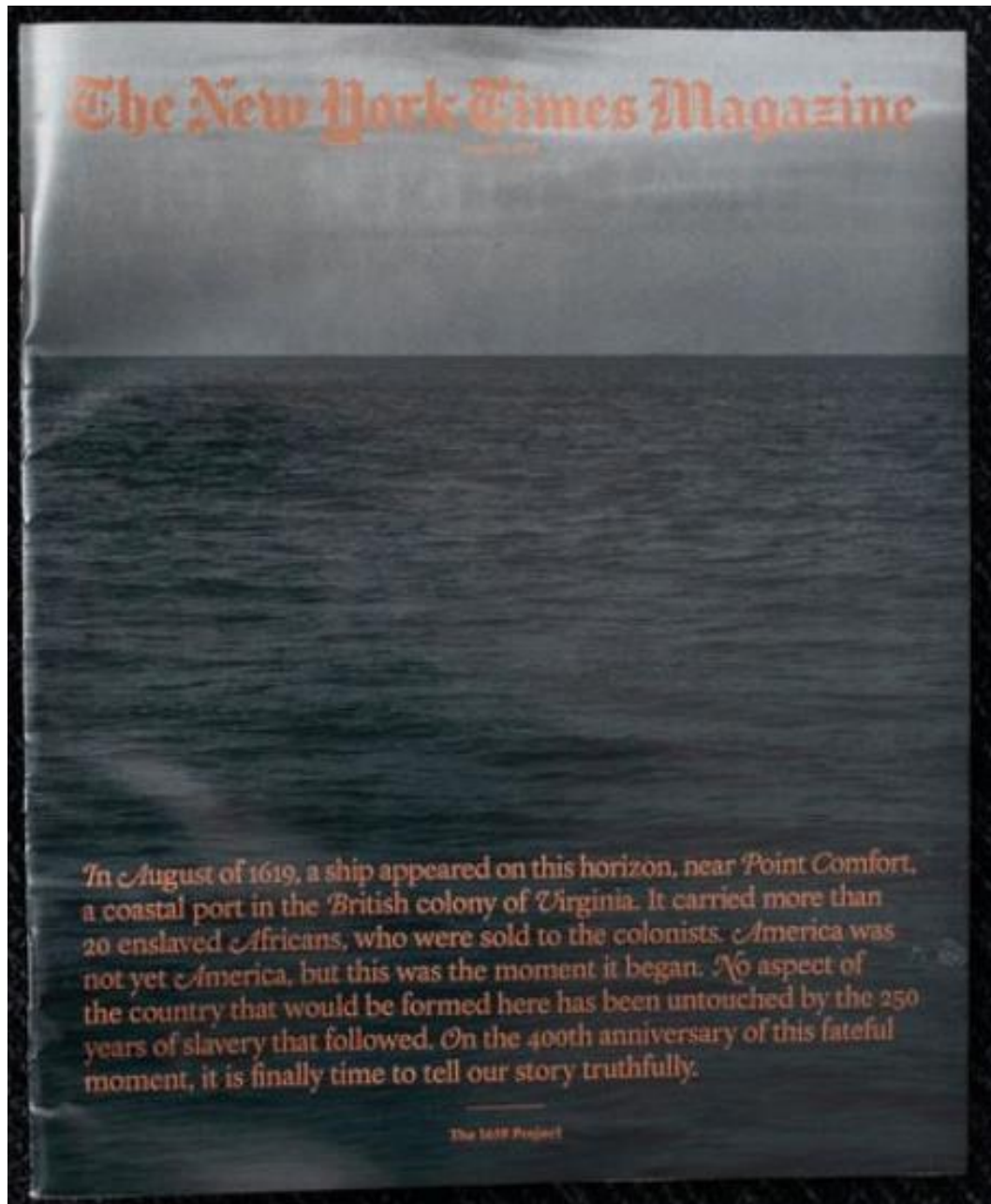


In August of 1619, a ship appeared on this horizon, near Point Comfort, a coastal port in the British colony of Virginia. It carried more than 20 enslaved Africans, who were sold to the colonists. America was not yet America, but this was the moment it began. No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the 250 years of slavery that followed. On the 400th anniversary of this fateful moment, it is finally time to tell our story truthfully.

The 1619 Project

In August 2019 the New York Times Magazine makes the claim that the US really started with slavery in 1619, fully loaded and racist. "This was the moment it began. No aspect of the country that would be formed here has been untouched by the 250 years of slavery that followed."

1. Not true at all. The introduction of Africans to Virginia was the result of happenstance.
2. The first captive Africans brought to the English colonies of Virginia in 1619 were a mistake made by pirates searching for Spanish treasure.
3. The Virginia Company of London, had originally planned on indentured servants to work out their indenture and grow the company/colony as settlers.
4. There was no provision for slaves in the regulations, so the African captives were in an undefined situation, some going on to be planters and even slave owners themselves, even in precedent-setting court cases.



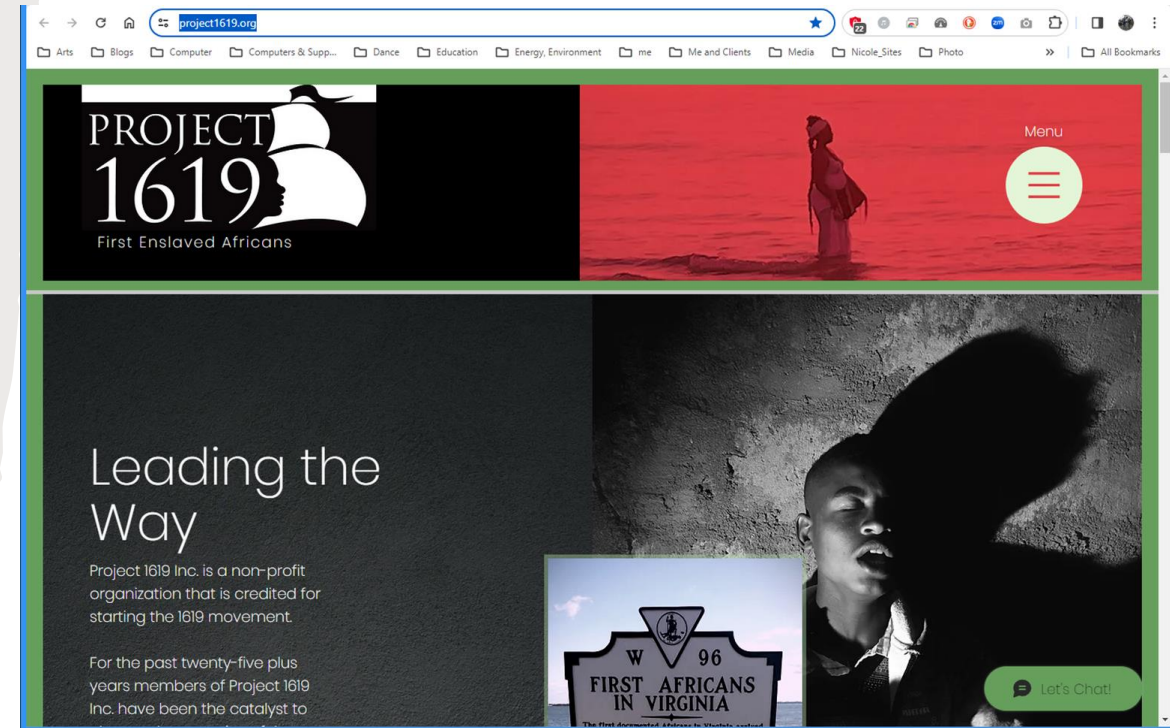
The August 2019 New York Times Magazine also all but obliterates Calvin Pearson's Project 1619, Incorporated from Google's search.

Yet Pearson's project had been going in one form or another for 25 years (since 1994), really starting in 1985.

Did Nikole Hannah-Jones steal the name of her pitch to the New York Times from an existing project in Virginia, "Project 1619, Incorporated" established in 1994 (25 years old at the time of Hannah-Jones pitch to the New York Times at the start of 2019)?

Project 1619, Inc.

- www.Project1619.org
- **1985 Research begins** Calvin Pearson comes across information that contradicts landing site of first enslaved Africans and Jamestown. Over next 10 years he does research..
- **1994 National campaign to promote truth starts** First article regarding findings of research appears in the Daily Press
- **2004 Monument plans begin** City of Hampton officials approached about creating a monument to the first enslaved Africans.
- **2007 First African Landing marker installed** The City of Hampton and Fort Monroe acknowledge the correct history and install the first African Landing Marker at Fort Monroe. But it was flawed.
- **2008 First commemoration event** The creation of an event to commemorate the landing of the first Africans in 1619 is proposed. A committee is formed. The first commemoration was held at Mill Point Park in Hampton in August 2008.
- **2010 Project 1619, Inc. created** Project 1619 Inc. was formally created as a non-profit organization
- **2011 African Landing Day location changes** In August 2011 African Landing Day commemoration ceremony is moved to Fort Monroe.
- **2011 Ft. Monroe becomes a National Monument** President Barack Obama proclaimed Fort Monroe a National Monument and expressly noted Fort Monroe as the first landing site of enslaved Africans in English North America.
- **2015 African landing marker is updated & reinstalled.** In 2015, the Department of Historic Resources corrected inaccuracies in the marker at Fort Monroe..
- **2016 African Landing Day** Project' 1619 Inc. retains involvement in African Landing Day, despite attempts to change ownership.
- **2019 400th Commemoration plans and event** Project 1619, Inc. provides African history, culture, dancers, drummers for the event as they have done for previous African Landing Day events.
- **2020 African Landing Day virtual event** Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the annual African Landing Day commemoration events are virtual..
- **2021 African Landing Day resumes live events** African Landing Day resumes as a live series of events at Ft. Monroe.
- **2022 Expansion of Partnerships** Expansion of partnerships, events, and community engagement in progress.





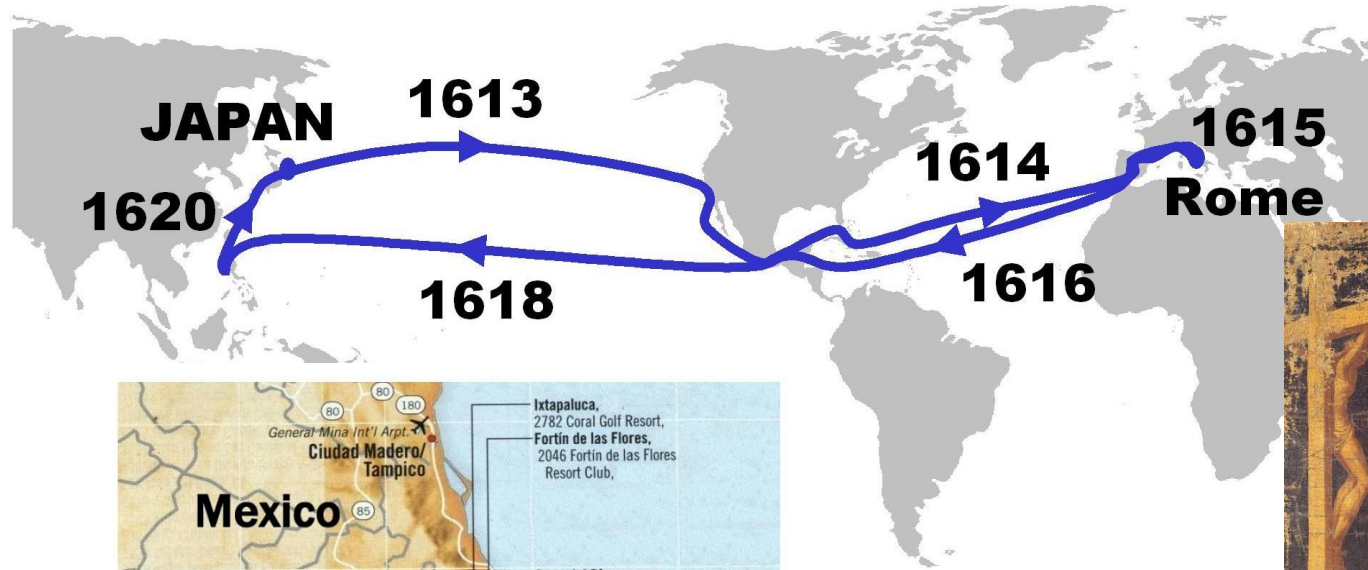
Japanese replica of the San Juan Bautista in Japan – original was constructed in 1613 from “southern barbarian” designs (Spanish)



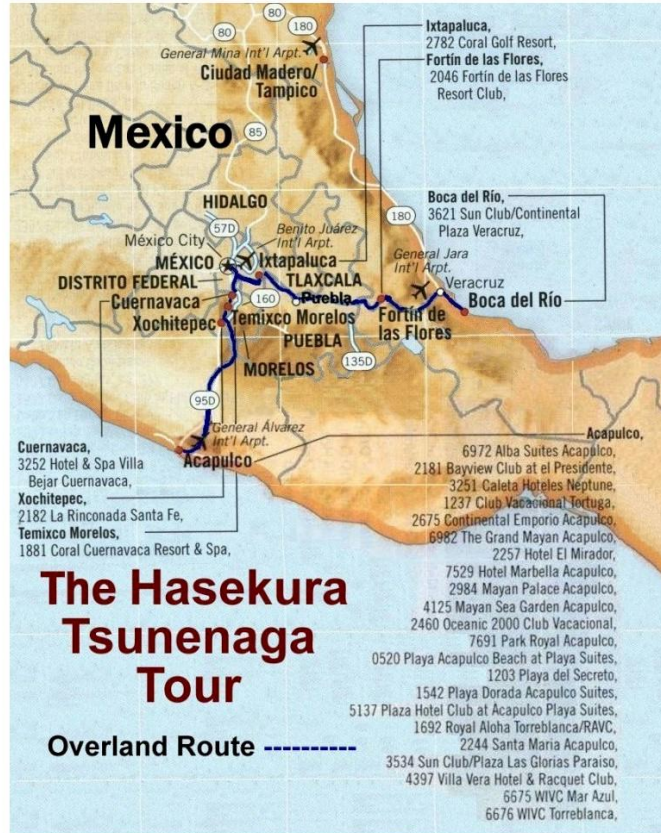
Samurai/envoy Hasekura Tsunenaga in the Vatican, contemporary portrait.

THE TRAVELS OF HASEKURA TSUNENAGA

Note: on return in 1618 the San Juan Bautista was sold to Spain while Tsunenaga returned to Japan in 1620.



The Date Masamune who ordered the ship and the trade delegation



Today, the Japanese mission to Acapulco is still remembered and celebrated in Mexico.



Hasekura Tsunenaga in prayer at the Vatican after conversion – contemporary portrait.

16th Century Portuguese, Spanish Trade Routes



The Talley by the Captain of the San Juan Bautista

*Reported by the captain, Manuel Mendez de Acuna
350/147*

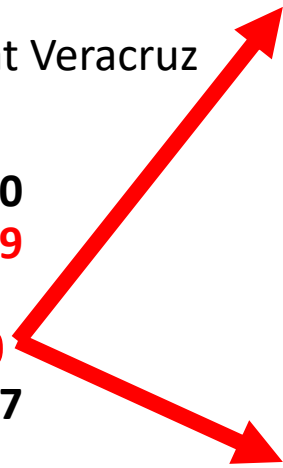
8,657,875 pesos for 147 slaves delivered at Veracruz

Total captives at the start in Luanda	350
Deaths enroute	119
Boys traded in Jamaica for medicine	24
Pirated by the two English corsairs	60
Total delivered in Veracruz **	147

**These were delivered by the Santa Ana which de Acuna rented because the San Juan Bautista was in no ship to sail after her battle off Campeche.

Distribution of the 60 prisoners.

<i>From the White Lion</i>	30
Traded in Bermuda Aug 1619	14
Brought to Point Comfort	14
Distro to Yeardley	8
Distro to Piersey	6
With the crew of the White Lion	2
<i>From the Treasurer</i>	30
Arrived in Bermuda	29
Probable death on the way	1



Events which converged (1)

- Diego Grillo (El Mulato) and Francis Drake and Pirates
- The pirate buddies in Cornwall
- **Letters of Marque (official permissions for piracy)**
 1. From Duke of Orange – during 80 years War (Habsburgs Spain vs Netherlands) and 12-years truce (1609-1621).
 2. From Duke of Savoy – (area between France, Switzerland, Italy) An agreement between Savoy and Phillip after Treasurer starts on its gold-hunting voyage with White Lion invalidates Savoy's letter of marque but the Treasurer doesn't know it yet.
- Running a largely hidden pirate (privateer) operation by Sir Walter Raleigh and Lord Rich
- The tale of a Japanese ship (Date Maru, renamed the San Juan Bautista) built in 1613, and a Japanese delegation to Acapulco (still celebrated in Acapulco today) and then to Spain where 700 Japans still live just SW of Seville in Rio de Correa.
 - This ship winds up heading back to Japan from Acapulco, by way of the Phillipines
 - Purchased for Spain by the outgoing ambassador who returns to Spain on the ship
 - The returning Ambassador presents this to the king who is unimpressed
 - The king fobs the ship off on his ambassador to England, Diego Sarmiento de Acuna, Count of Gondomar
 - **Special note:** Gondomar is the Spanish ambassador who flatters England's King James I and who in a rage at an English attack (searching for the city of gold, El Dorado) off the coast of Venezuela in and around the Orinoco River, in 1618 get James to behead Sir Walter Raleigh (October 1618). That plays directly into the misleading report (March 1620) of the arrival of the White Lion and the Treasurer at Port Comfort in August 1619.
 - Gondomar, in turn, hands off the ship to his ship-captain cousin Manuel Mendez de Acuna.
 - Captain Acuna gets a contract from a banker slaver trader to take 200 captives from Angola to Vera Cruz

Events which converged (2)

The Spanish Ambassador to England, and “buddy” of King James I (of the King James Bible), Diego Sarmiento de Acuña, Count of Gondomar, a title awarded by King Philip III of Spain in 1617 Conde de Gondomar.

James was a bit shallow and Gondomar was literate with a collection of books. He flattered James (played the royal boob) but he was also more than a little insistent that the treaty forbidding the English to attack Spanish ships or installations be followed, including executions for violations.

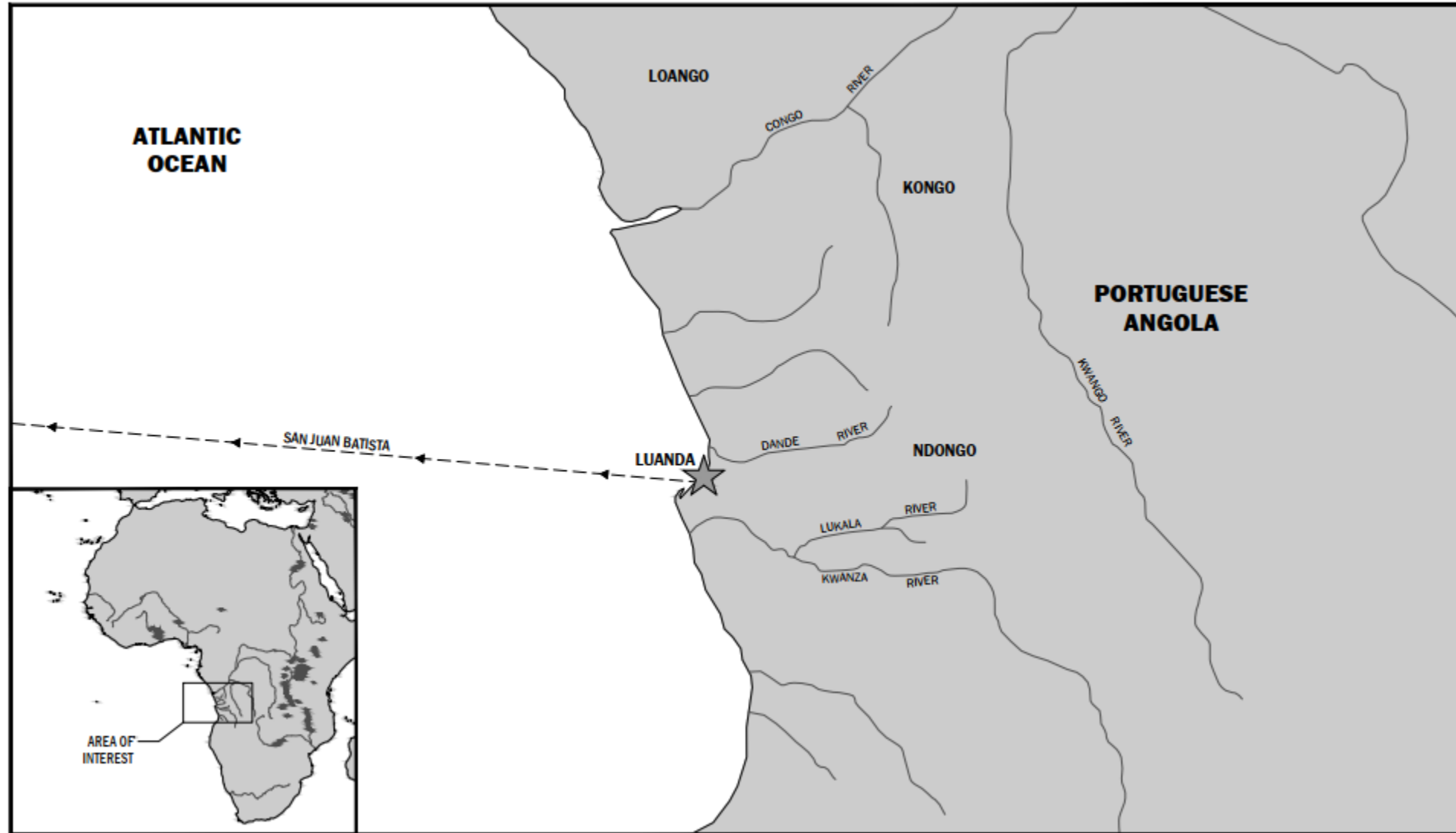


- Gondomar, as the Spanish ambassador, flatters England’s King James I and, in a rage at an English attack (searching for the city of gold, El Dorado) off the coast of Venezuela in and around the Orinoco River, in 1618 gets James to behead Sir Walter Raleigh (October 1618). That plays directly into the misleading report (March 1620) of the arrival of the White Lion and the Treasurer at Port Comfort in August 1619, the “20 and Odd.” They had reason to lie/worry.
- Gondomar, on being handed the San Juand Bautista by the king, in turn, hands off the ship to his ship-captain cousin Manuel Mendez de Acuna.
- Captain Acuna gets a contract from a Lisbon banker Antonio Fernandez, slave trader to take 200 captives from Angola (Luanda) to Veracruz. His is one of 36 shipping contracts in this particular batch (1619).

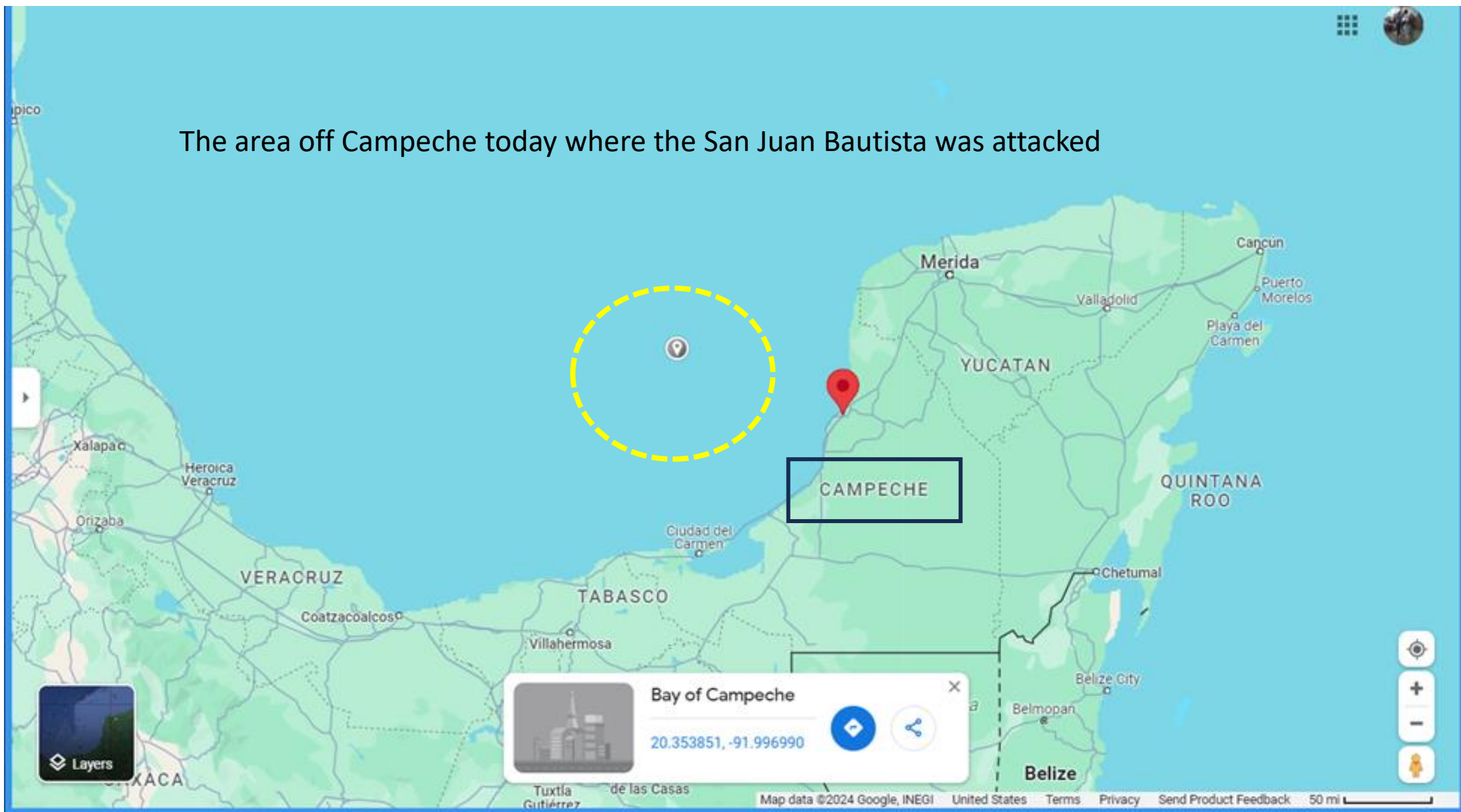
Events which converged (3)

- Thousands of captives are created by the invasion of Ndonga and capitulation of the capital Kbasá with thousand of captives in early 1619. This is carried out of African mercs known as the Imbangala and are joined by the Portuguese governor Vasconcellos.
- 36 ships are contracted by Lisbon banker Antonio Fernandez to go to Luanda to take the captives across the Atlantic
 - Note: Between 1615 and 1622 Antonio Fernandez (the Lisbon banker) was allowed (licensed) to ship from 3,500 to 5,000 Africans per year from Luanda.
- 6 of those 36 ships are sent to Vera Cruz, the rest to the West Indies and South America.
- 1 of those 6 is the original Japanese-built San Juan Bautista.
 - The San Juan Bautista is only licensed for 200 but takes on 350. That is too many for the ship's stores to handle and they have to stop in Jamaica, selling off 24 captives, to get enough provisions to continue to Vera Cruz. This stop also separates them from the other 5 ships going to Veracruz, contributing to her later appearance as a treasure ship.
 - The San Juan Bautista never makes it to Vera Cruz. Off Campeche she is intercepted by two pirate ships mistaking the San Juan Bautista for a treasure ship.
- Her size (smaller) and configuration (galleon) make her look like a treasure ship and she is alone (probably, thanks to the stop in Jamaica, the San Juan Bautista).
- Diego Grillo (el Mulato) heads from Englands Cornwall to the waters off Cuba to pirate Spanish treasure ships.
- Diego's buddies in Cornwall, Colyn Jope (White Lion) and Daniel Elfrith (Treasurer) take off to join him a little later.
- By the time the two get down to Cuban waters, el Mulato has made his conquest and made off with the gold.
- So, the two decide to go hunting anyway, just the two of them.
- They spot the San Juan Bautista off Campeche and thinking she is a treasure ship, attack her.
- When Jolpe and Elfrith board the San Juan Batista, they open the hold expecting gold and silver, but crap, they see humans.

The San Juan Bautista picks up 350 captives in Luanda, bound for Veracruz.



The area off Campeche today where the San Juan Bautista was attacked

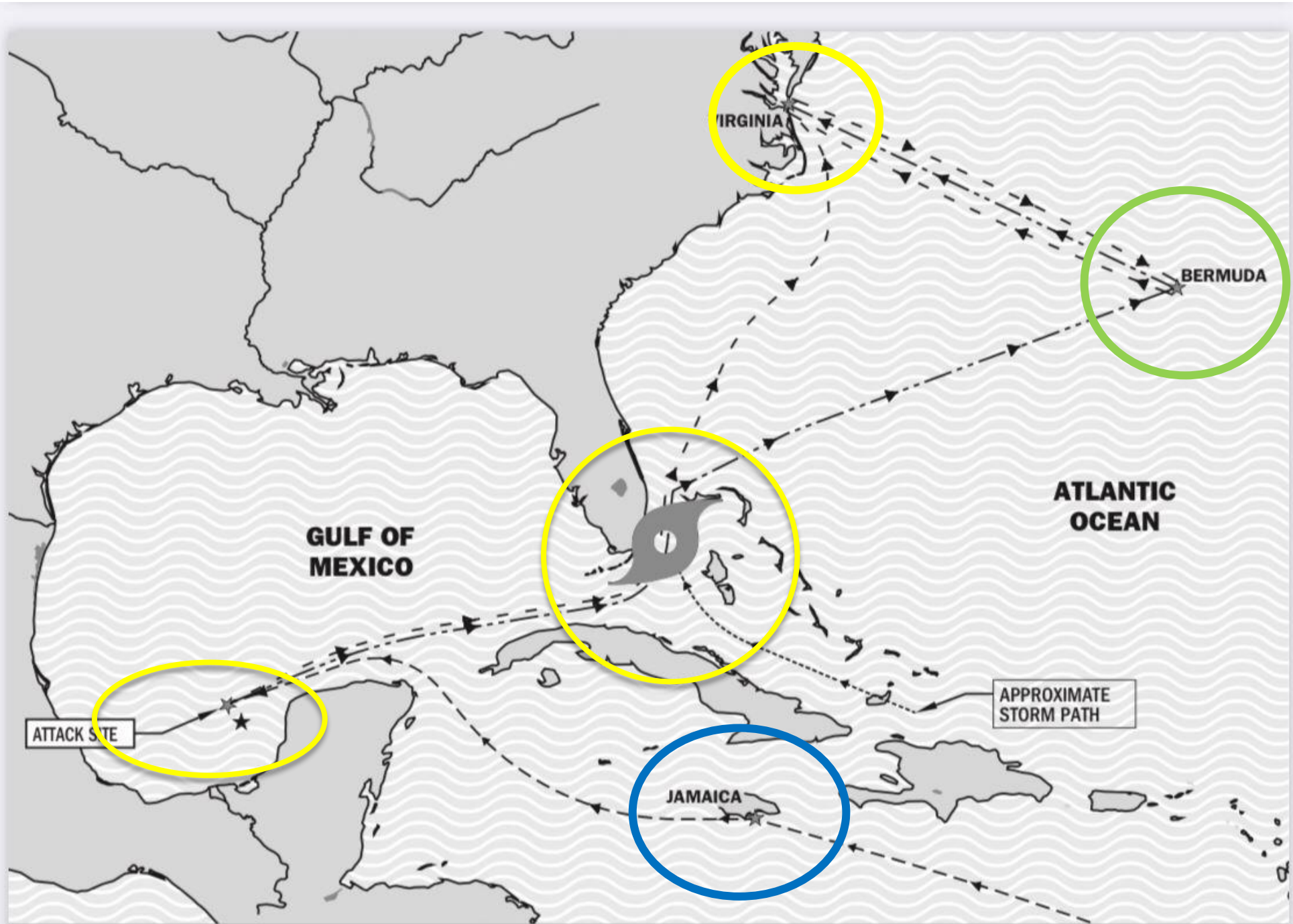


The San Juan Bautista has to stop in Jamaica for medicine and provisions by selling 24 captives.

That puts them a few days behind the other 6 ships. When spotted off Campeche they are mistaken for a treasure ship.

The White Lion and Treasurer take 60, headed for Virginia and encounter a storm off Florida.

The Treasurer puts in at Bermuda before Virginia



Crap! Humans, not Gold and Silver

- What to do? They don't want to come away empty handed so they pick as many captives as they think they can hold and have provisions to get to Virginia, which is under the control of their owner, Lord Rich. 30 each.
- Remember, they are fighting ships with just enough room to provision for guns, ammo, fighting crew and not much for passengers, willing or not. So, 30 extra mouths to feed is the max number they dare take on and still hope to get to a friendly port before they run out.
- When they get there, they are out of provisions, so, again, captives are traded for provisions.
- In the meantime, back in Campeche, Captain de Acuna gets back on the San Juan Bautista, now no longer sailable. He rents the Santa Ana (Hertz Rent-a-Galleon?) in which to put the remaining 147 captives and finally delivers them to Veracruz. They had already lost 119 who died coming across the Atlantic.
 - Side note, the captives taken off by the English privateers were probably luckier (as captives go) than those who went on to the Spanish colonies where they were intended to work the silver mines. The Spanish mines tended to have a high mortality rate.
- This will ignite a huge scandal in England and (cousin of the ship's captain) Count Gondomar is again demanding blood. But the English are so unhappy with what happened to Raleigh that revenge is delayed a bit, until James disbands the Virginia Company of London and starts selling charters to others, thus the number of colonies starts expanding. This is also, in part to fill James personal purse. He is a spendthrift and is always as odds for funds from Parliament (they don't like him and his Scottish divine-right of kings beliefs).

No Legal Structure or Planning for Slaves

When they get to Virginia (at Point Comfort – NOT Jamestown), there is no provision for the use of slaves in Virginia.

The Virginia Company of London (which sold shares to investors looking for a payoff) had planned on a labor force of indentured servants who would work off their passage, then become landowners or free workers themselves, adding to the colony that way (as a company investment).

Left: Ad for indentured servants (from prior to 1624).

"The London Company

wants settlers to go to

Virginia

Free Land!

Free ship fare!

Sign up now to work for a Virginia Planter.

Work for 7 years to pay back the planter for your fare to Virginia. After 7 years you will receive Land, clothing, some livestock and tools.

Come! Be an indentured servant. Then start a life of your own!"

