Early Protestant Missions to the Americas

Alec Ryrie

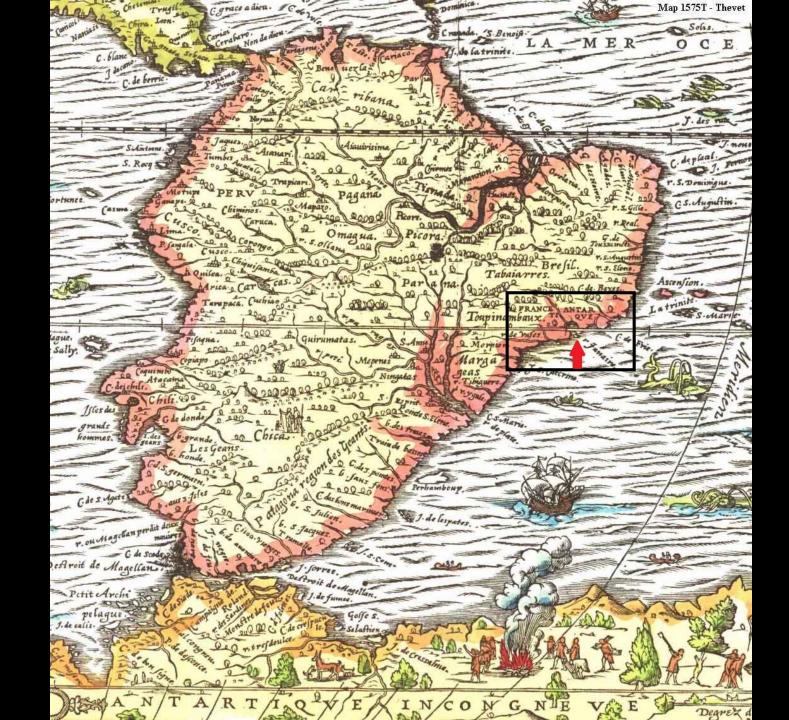


The Devil could invent no worse pestilence to destroy all the world and to kill all the people there ... than ... the institution used to distribute and entrust Indians to the Spaniards. This was like entrusting the Indians to a gang of devils or delivering herds of cattle to hungry wolves ... the most cruel sort of tyranny that can be imagined, most worthy of infernal damnation.

The Indians were prevented from receiving the Christian faith and religion.... Since the Indians regard our God as the most cruel, unjust and pitiless god of all, the conversion of the Indians has been hindered, and it has become impossible to convert infinite numbers of infidels.

> Bartolomé de las Casas, A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies (1552)





Nicolas Durand, sieur de Villegagnon (1510-71)





Jean de Léry's History of a Voyage to Brazil

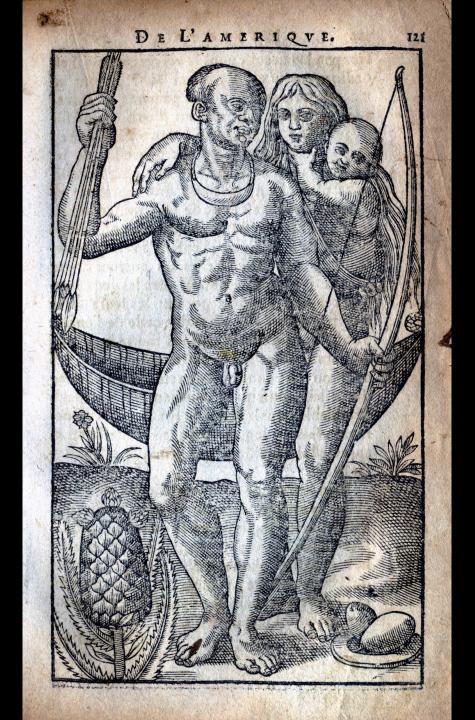
HISTORIA NAVIGATIONIS IN BRASILIAM, QVÆ ET AMERICA DICITVR.

QVA DESCRIBITVR AVTORIS nauigatio, quarque in mari vidit memoria prodenda: Villagagnonis in America gefta: Brafilienfium victus & mores, à noftris admodum alieni, cum corum lingua dialogo animalia etiam, arbores, atque herba, reliquáque fingularia & nobis penitús incognita.

A IOANNE LERIO BVRGVNDO Gallice feripta. Nune vero primum Latinitate donata, & variis figuris illustrata.

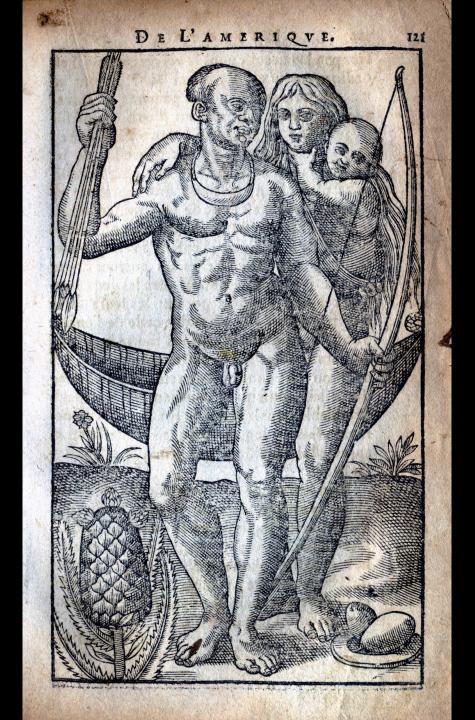


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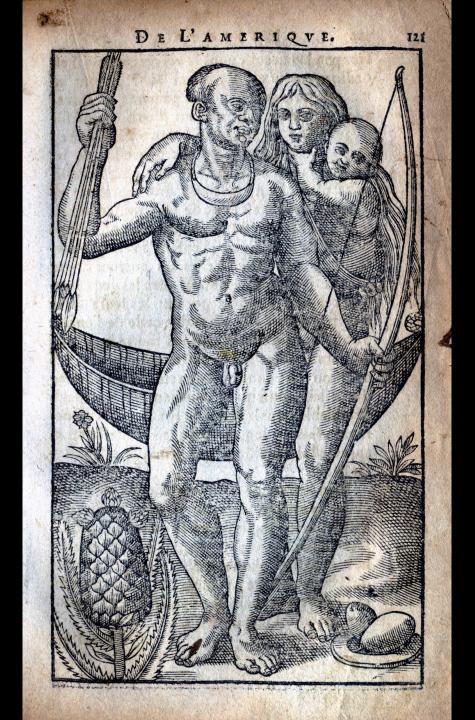












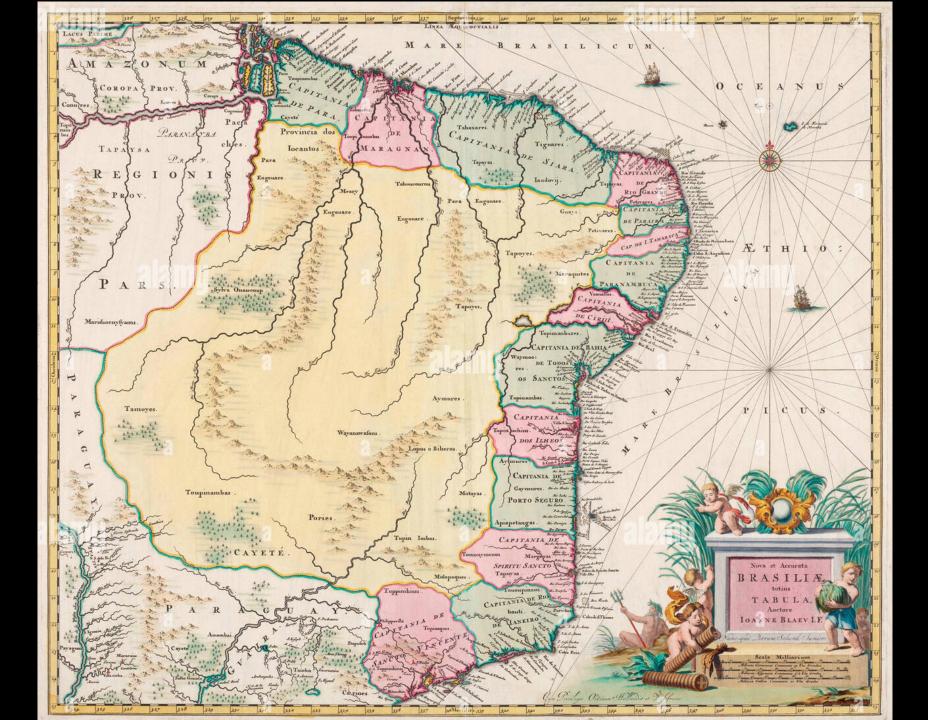
















A contemporary depiction of the 1757 'Massacre at Fort Henry' during the French and Indian War (1754-63)



Fort William Henry.

Three phases of Protestant missions

• I. Alluring





Hendrik Brouwer (1581-1643), commander of the Dutch expedition to Chile

FOR The Colony in Virginea BRITANNIA. Lavves Diuine, Morall and *Martiall, Gr.*

Alget que non Ardet.

Resnofir & fubinde non funt, quales quis optaret, fed quales effe poffunt.



Printed at London for Walter Burre. 1612.

Seeing Lord the highest end of our plantation here, is to set vp the standard, & display the banner of Iesus Christ, euen here where satans throne is Lord, let our labor be blessed in laboring the conuersion of the heathen. ...

> Prayer to be said twice daily by the commander of the watch at Jamestown, 1612

Adorne vs with the garments of Iustice, mercy, loue, pitie, faithfulnesse, humility, & all vertues, & teach vs to abhor all vice, that our lights may so shine before these heathen, that they may see our good works, & so be brought to glorifie thee our heauenly Father.

> Prayer to be said twice daily by the commander of the watch at Jamestown, 1612

When the heathen do know thee to be their God, and Iesus Christ to be their saluation, they may say, blessed be the king & Prince of England, & blessed be the English nation, and blessed for euer be the most high God, possessor of heauen & earth that sent them amongst vs.

> Prayer to be said twice daily by the commander of the watch at Jamestown, 1612







Three phases of Protestant missions

- I. Alluring
- II. Civilizing



It is necessary to civilize Savages before they can be converted to Christianity; ... in order to make them Christians, they must first be made Men.

Charles Inglis (later bishop of Nova Scotia), 1770

Let a number of Indian Families be induced to settle among them, and let each Family have a fixt Property in a small Plantation. ... For the first Years let them be assisted by the Society with Cloaths, Provisions, Implements of Husbandry, & for Building, Fishing, learning Trades &c Let them be taught to build & lodge comfortably, to plow plant, sow and provide for winter.

Let them be enticed to all this, not as a Drudgery, but by a Spirit of Emulation, by giving Premiums in Proportion to the Improvements they make, till they are gradually brought to see & to feel with how much More Comfort, Ease and Security they can live in this Way, than in their own Vagrant unsettled Condition.

The Instruction of Children at Schools, and in all sorts of manual or mechanic Employments will become easy; and the more aged, by having fixed Habitations will also be brought to listen to the Blessed Gospel.

And at Length, by the Blessing of God, it is to be hoped, Numbers of Young Indians, animated with the Gospel, conscious of the Sweets of improved Life, and inflamed with a sacred, perhaps Apostolic Zeal, to communicate these Blessings to their Countrymen, might go forth & form like Colonies in different Parts, still farther & farther thro' this vast Continent.



A KEY into the LANGUAGE OF AMERICA:

An help to the Language of the Natives in that part of AMERICA, called NEW-ENGLAND.

Together, with briefe Observations of the Cuftomes. Manners and Worships, &c. of the atoresaid Natives, in Peace and Warre, in Life and Death.

On all which are added Spirituall Observations, Generall and Particular by the Anthonr, of chiefe and speciall use (upon all occasions.) to all the English Inhabiting those parts; yet pleasant and profitable to the view of all men :

> Br ROGER WILLIAMS of Providence in New-England.

LONDON, Printed by Gregory Dexter, 1643.

... a Colledge in Virginia for the trayning and bringing vp of Infidells children to the true knowledge of God & vnderstanding of righteousness ...? '... the mayntenance of a Convenyent nomber of younge Indians taken att the age of Seaven years or younger & instructed in the readinge & vnderstandinge the principalls of Xian Religion vnto the Age of 12 years ...'

Anonymous donor signing himself 'Dust and ashes', 1620

RGINIA

Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in the early 19th century

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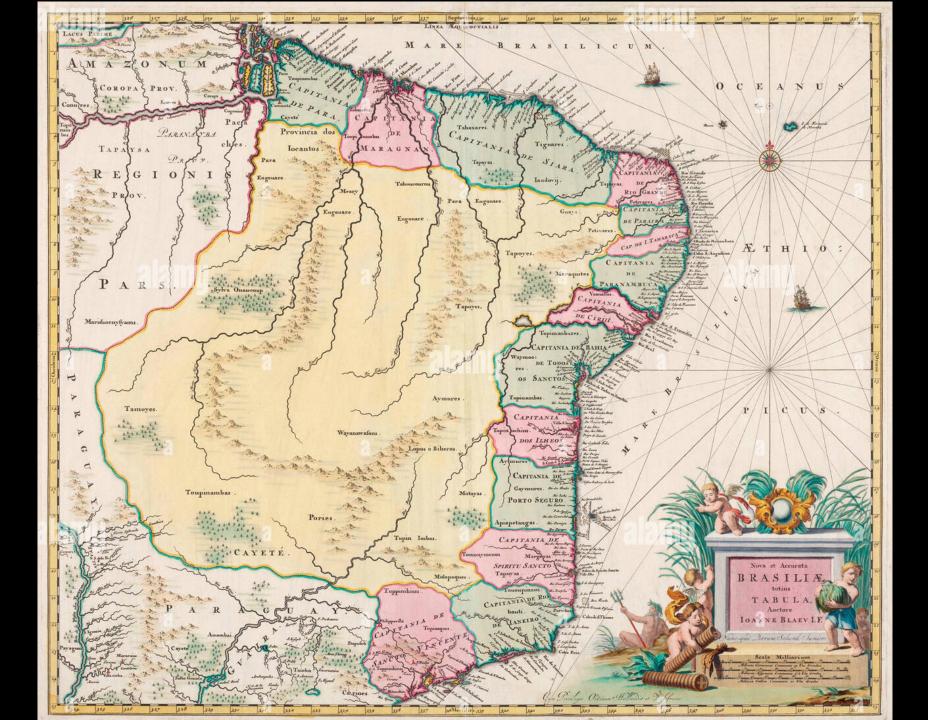
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'... the mayntenance of a Convenyent nomber of younge Indians <u>taken</u> att the age of Seaven years or younger & instructed in the readinge & vnderstandinge the principalls of Xian Religion vnto the Age of 12 years ...'

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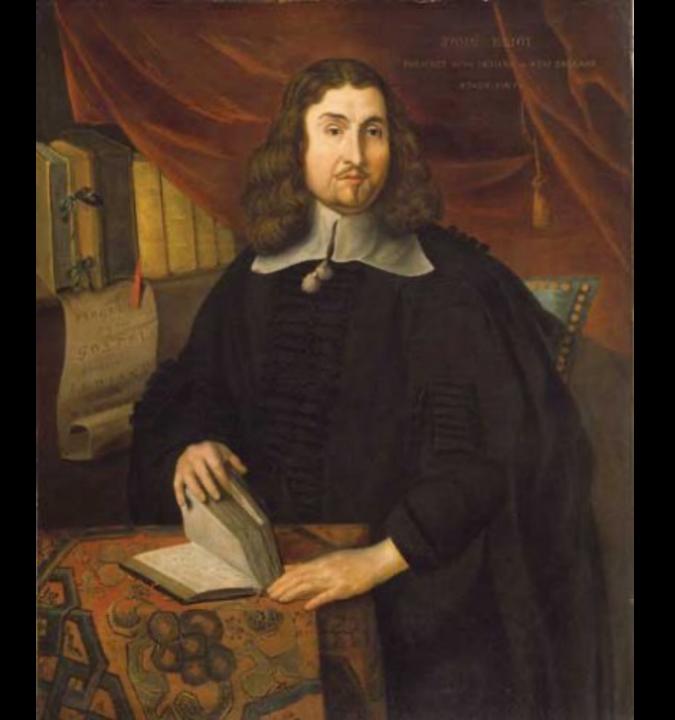
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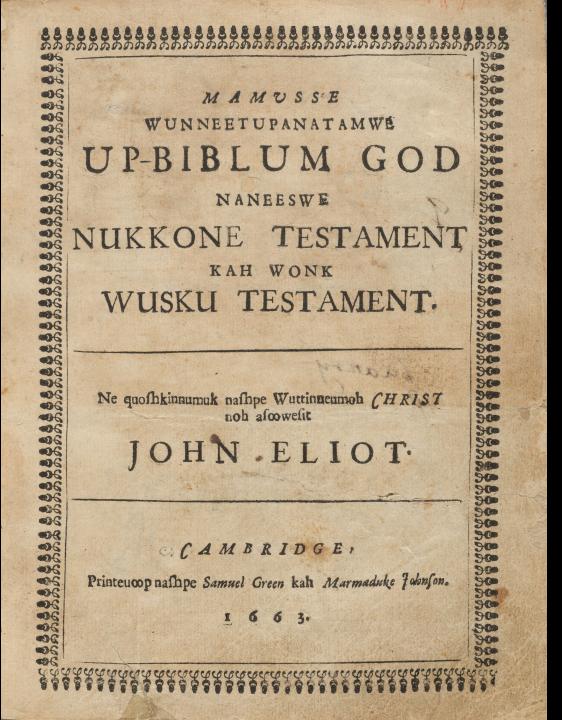




Alexander Spotswood (1676-1740), lieutenantgovernor of Virginia

John Eliot (1604-90)







Three phases of Protestant missions

- I. Alluring
- II. Civilizing
- III. Accepting

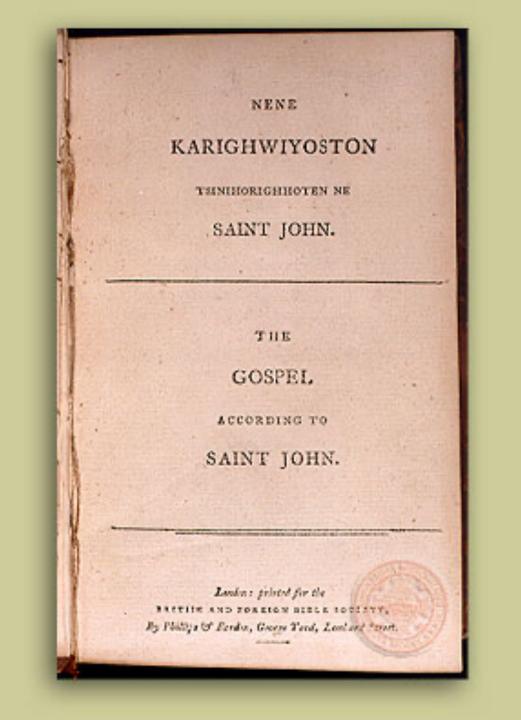


Sir William Johnson (c. 1715-1774)

Those Indians who ... are become in some measure Civilized have hitherto derived no advantages from it. ... On the Contrary they are poor, abject, full of Avarice, Hypocrisy, & in short have imbibed all our Vices, without any of our Good Qualities and without retaining their former Abilities for gaining a Subsistence.







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