

TECT Final Conference DYNCOOPNET 15-17 September 2010 Budapest

Cooperation during slave trading?



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EUROPEAN
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FOUNDATION



Rationale

- To create a software tool appropriate for handling historical information.
- To structure the information, to facilitate the querying process and to enrich the answers.
- To help the research of historians about the possible cooperation during the Slave Trade and, at the same time, to test the software tool design.

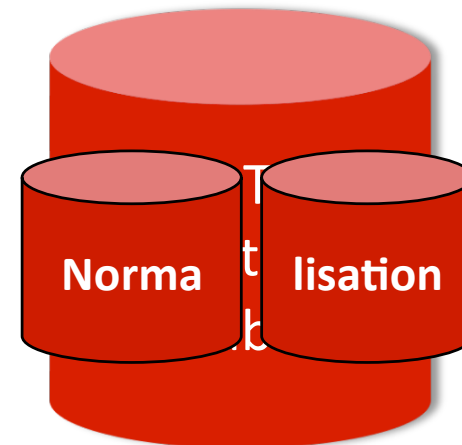
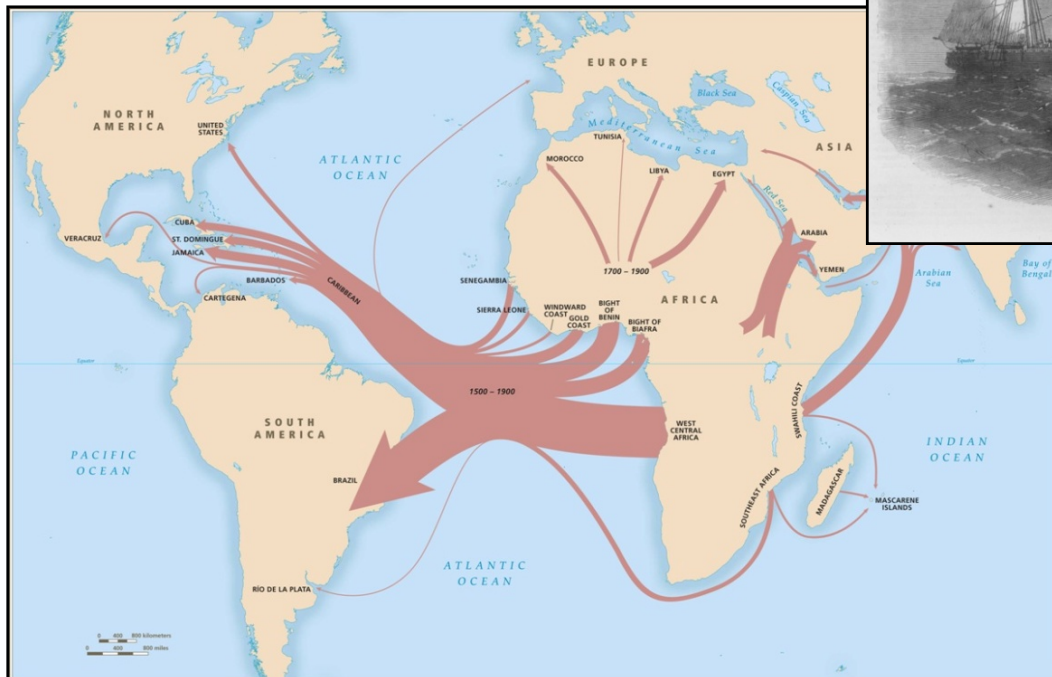
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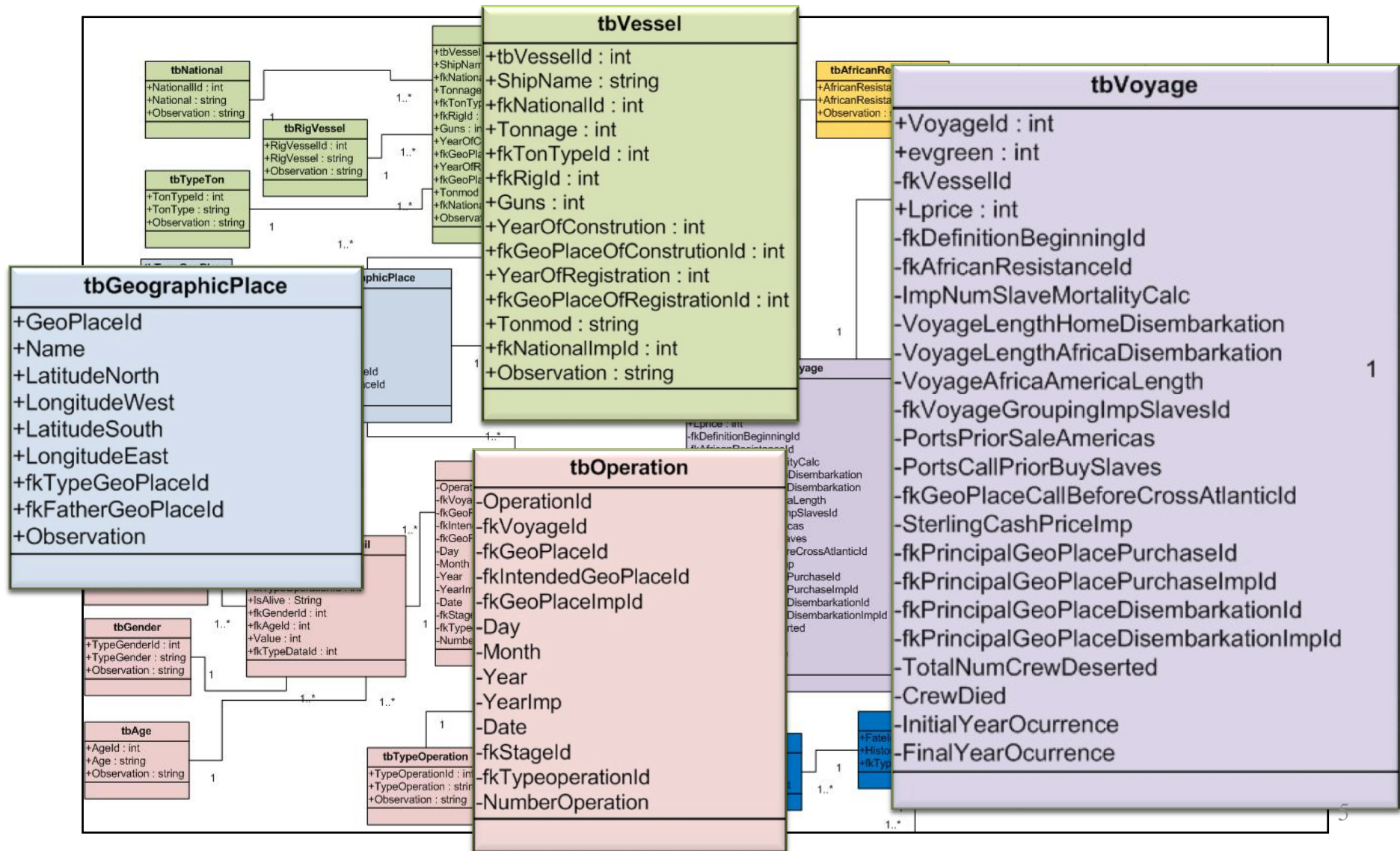
Slave Trade Database as data source

<http://www.slavevoyages.org>

34,941 commerce
voyages took place
between
1510 - 1860



Slave Trade Database as data source



Question structure

Three components are the base of data types:

space (where), **time** (when) and **objects** (what) (Peuquet, 1994)



What phenomena were present at the time T at the location X?



What was the location of the phenomenon P at the time T?



When did the phenomenon P visit the location L?

User Interface Design



Assigning coordinates to ports

Total number of ports	Ports with coordinates	Percentage of Ports with coordinates
824	505	61.21%

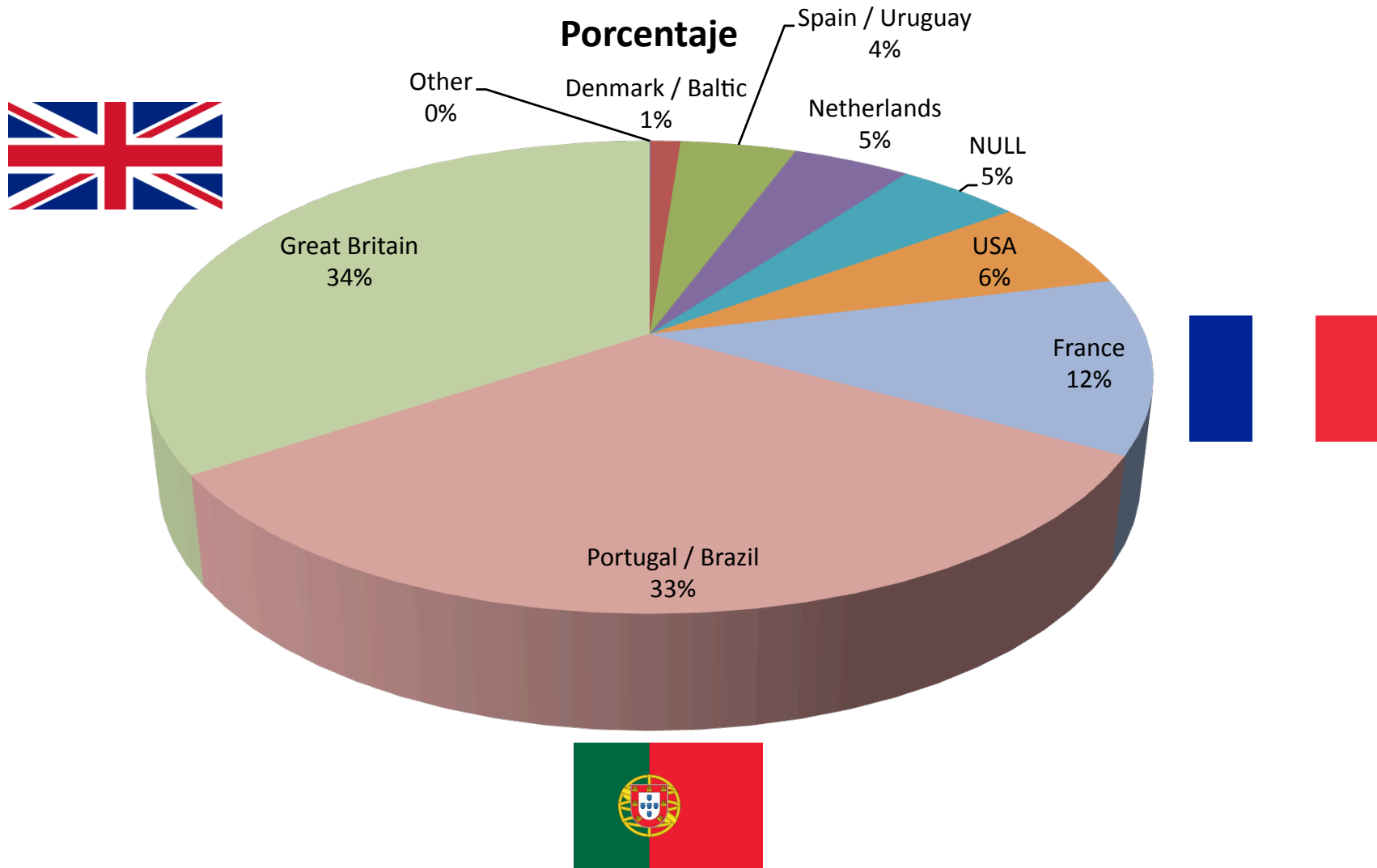
We were unable to assign coordinates to some “unspecified ports” (sic):

- Spain
- Mediterranean coast (France)
- Spanish Americas,
- Asia and Africa.

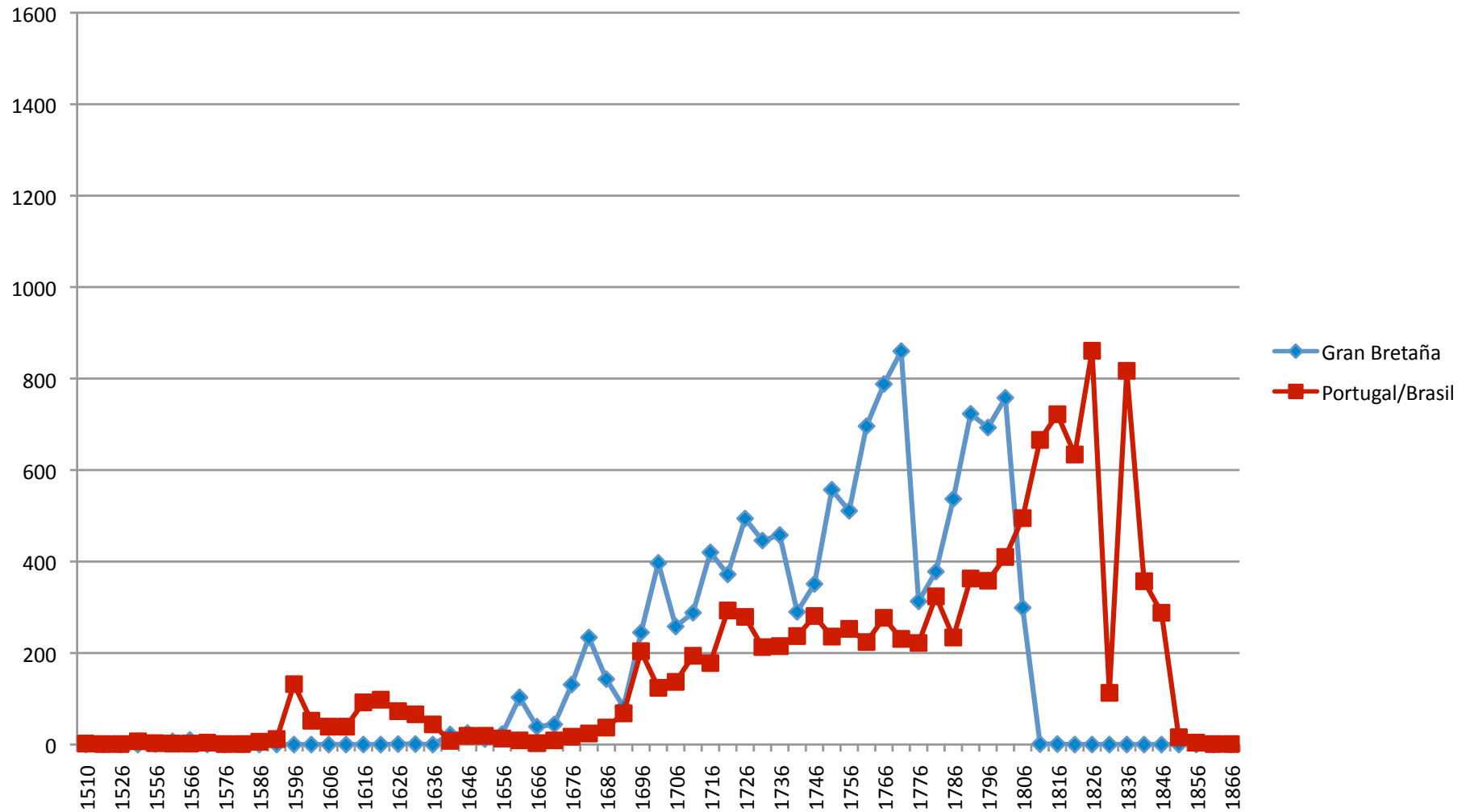
Case Study: Slave Trade Commerce

- What nations were involved in the slave trade?
- How was the evolution of the leadership?
- How was the commerce at some main ports of embarkation?
- How was the commercial activity at some main ports of debarkation?
- How did the information flow through the commercial networks?

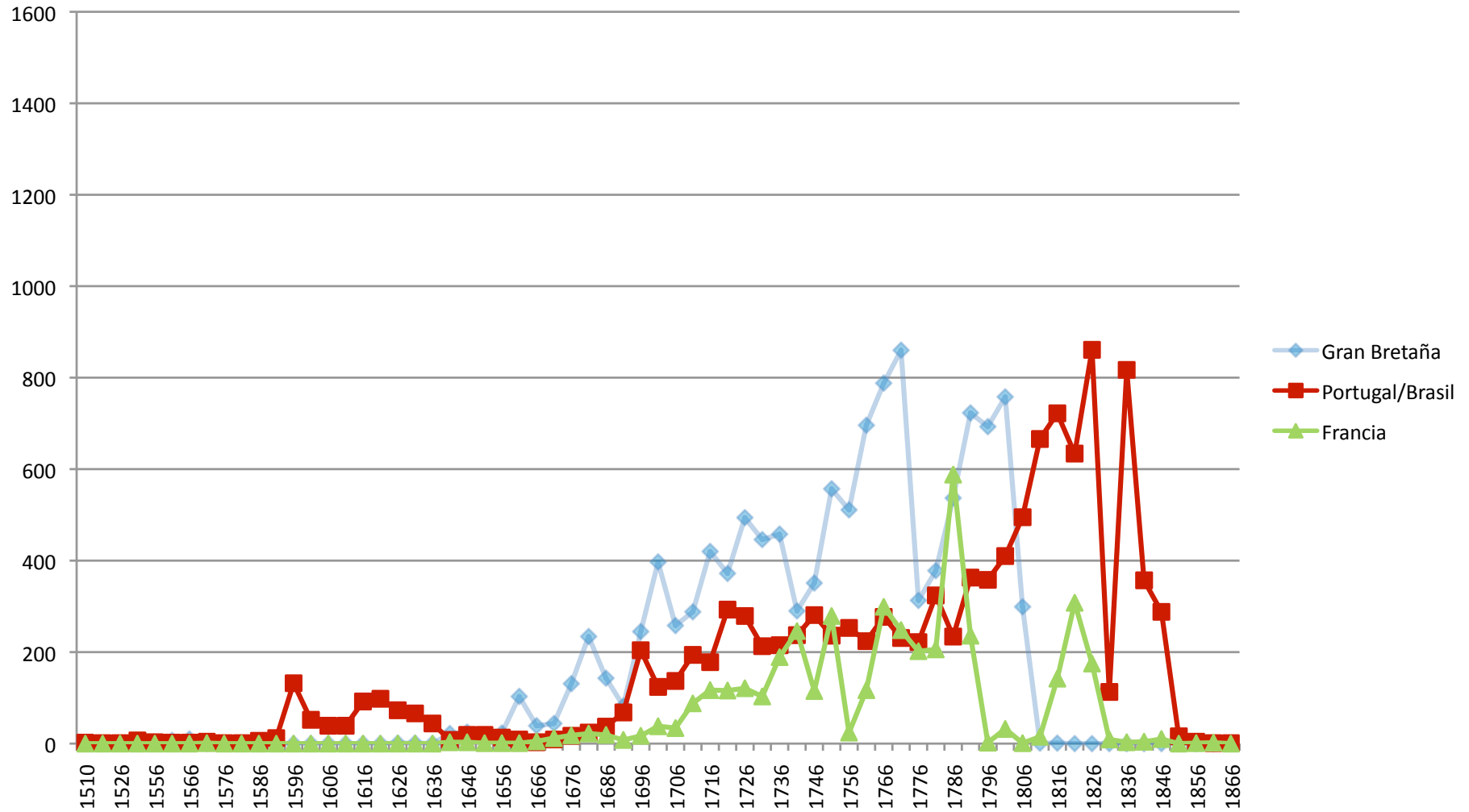
Slave Trade: participation



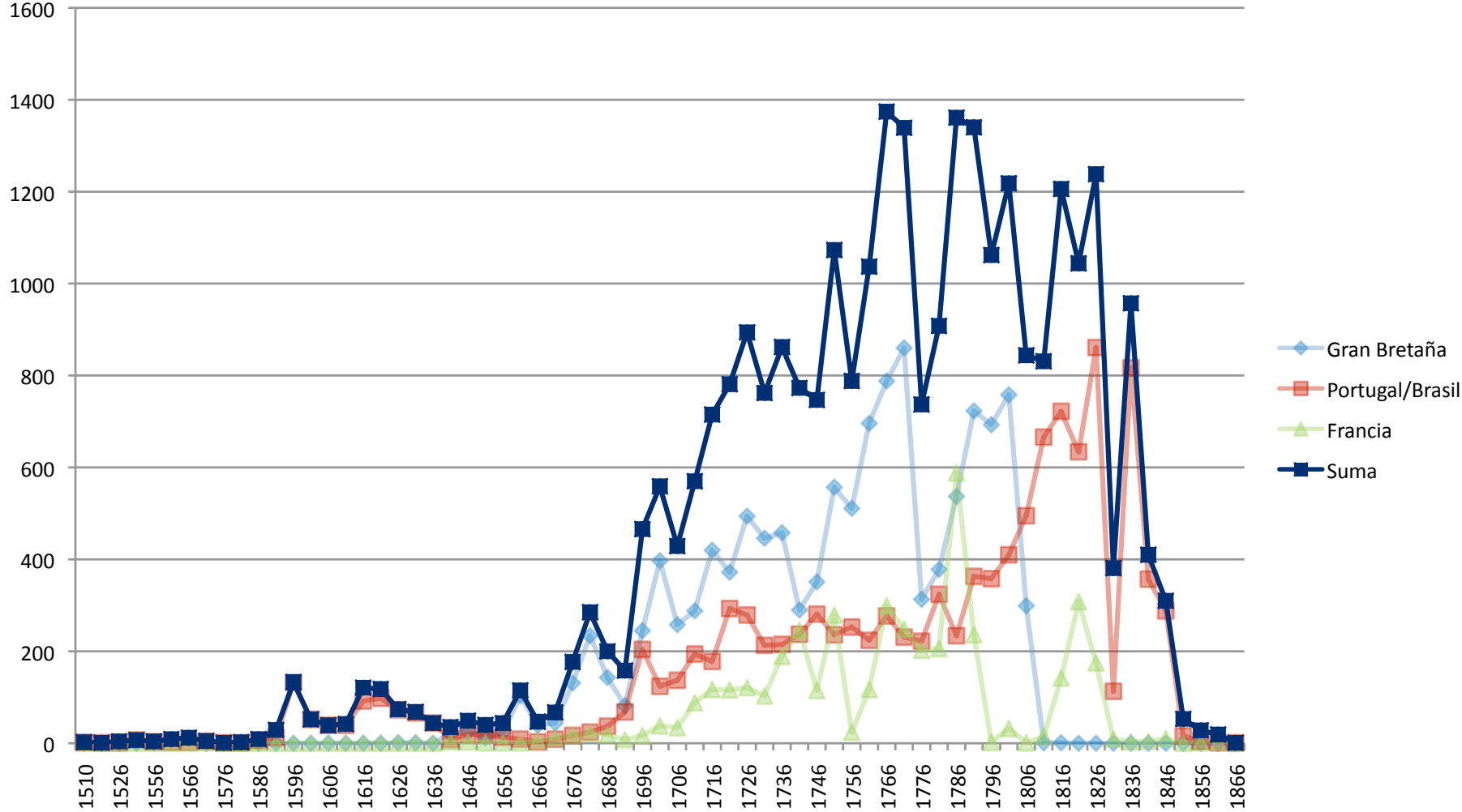
Leadership evolution



Leadership evolution

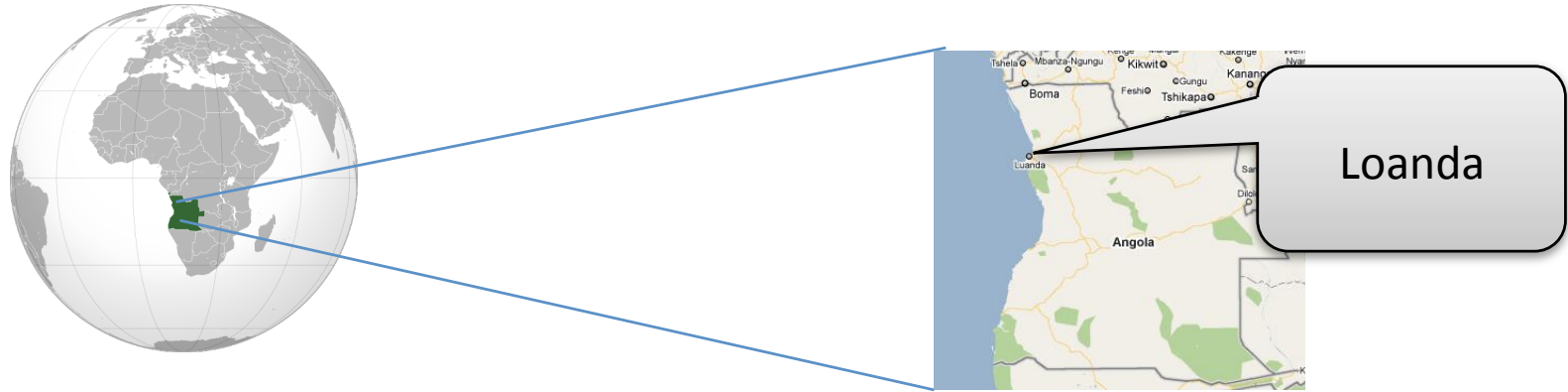


Leadership evolution: Totals



Embarkation port used by many
nations

Most nations used the embarkation port St. Paul de Loanda (1581- 1846)



1 voyage



1 voyage



1 voyage



3 voyages



17 voyages



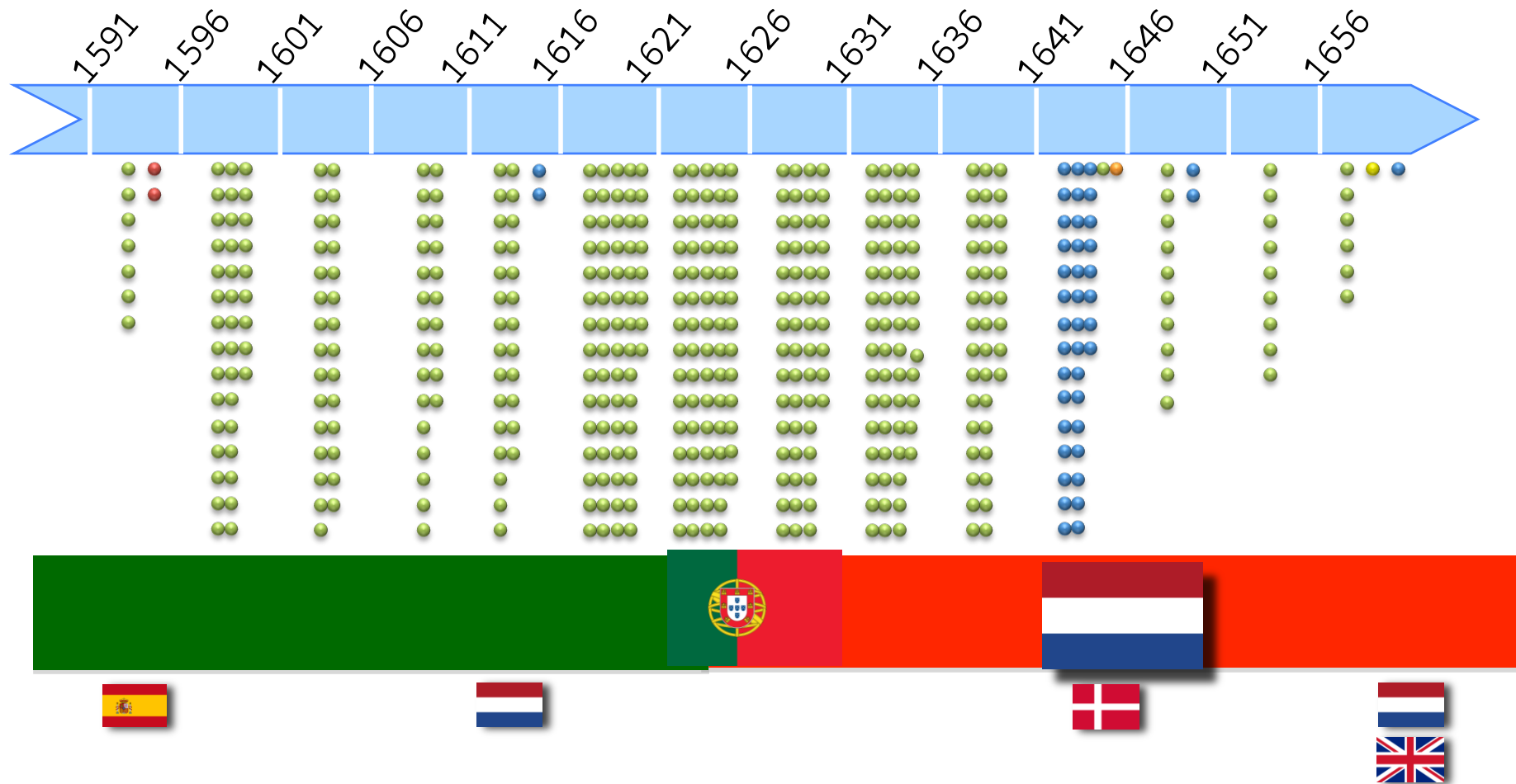
44 voyages



3621 voyages



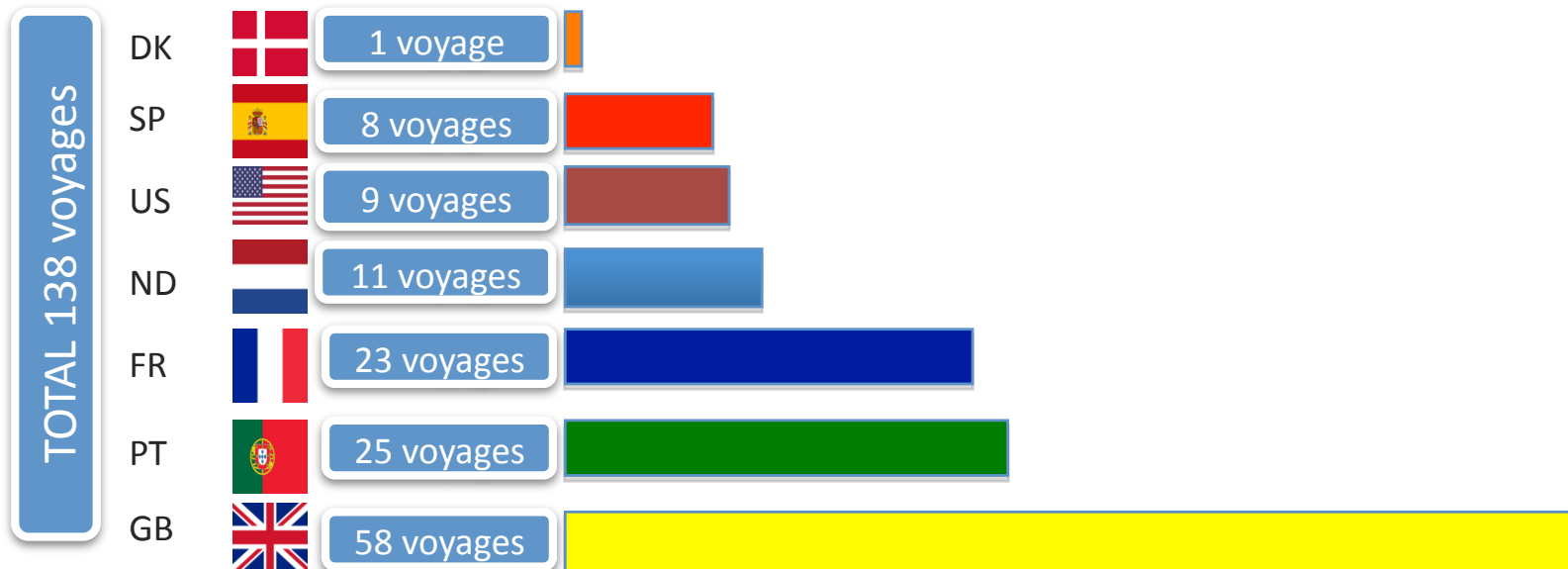
Coincidences at St. Paul de Loanda



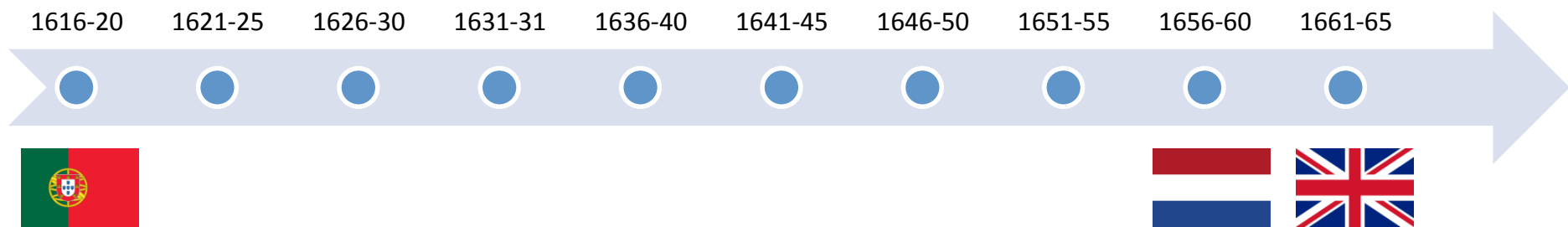
Sharing a debarkation port

Buenos Aires (1616–1826)

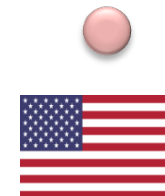
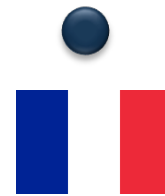
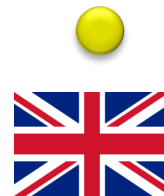
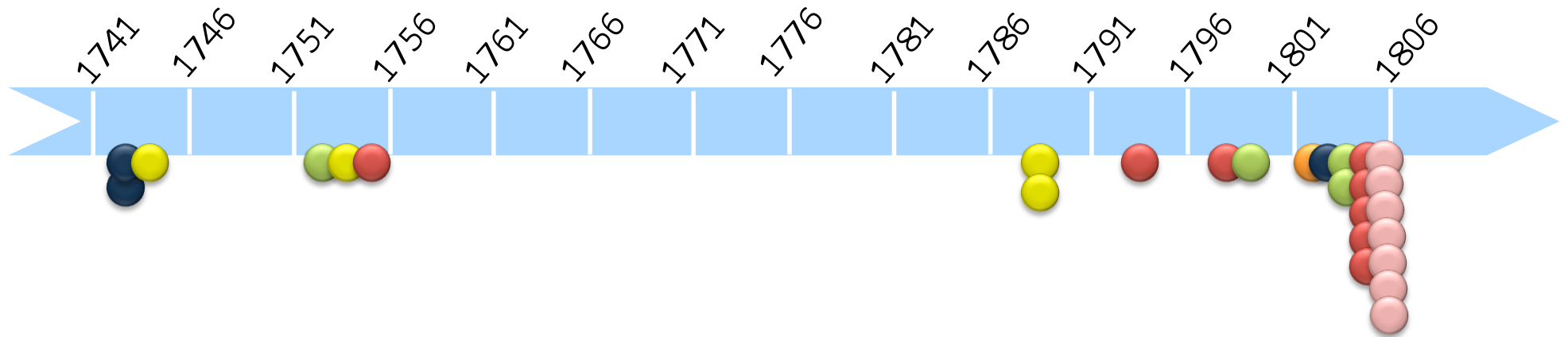
138 Voyages



First nations that landed at Buenos Aires

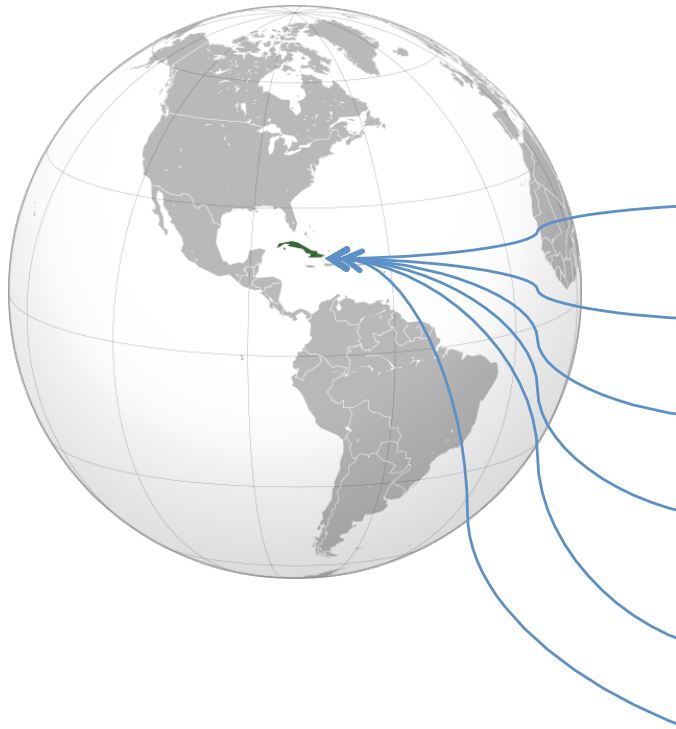


Coincidences at Buenos Aires



Havanna (Spain):
“cosmopolitan” port?

Havanna (Spain): Debarkations during 1801-1805



Country	Vessels Sailing at Havana 1801-05	Total debarkations 1801-05	Percentage of debarkations in Havana
Portugal	1	410	0,24%
France	3	32	9,37%
Spain	5	18	27,7%
Denmark	23	68	33,8%
G. Britain	64	758	8,44%
US	67	234	28,6%
Total	163	1520	10,72%

Conclusions

Conclusions

- Great Britain (34%), Portugal (33%) and France (12%) were the main traders.
- 38% of the embarkation ports were used by only one nation (no collaboration)
- 36% of the debarkation ports were used by only one nation (no collaboration)
- The Havana port shows great commercial activity from different nations at the same time.
- At least 25% of the information stored in the Database has one or more attributes missing.
- A software tool has been designed in order to help historians.
- (The software tool is under development yet...)

Thank you!

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