

The Love-Hate Relationship with Experts in the Early Modern Atlantic

As England began to venture into the Atlantic in the late sixteenth century, leaders increasingly realized that English technical knowledge was woefully behind that of European competitors. In fields ranging from navigation and fortification to finding and processing valuable commodities, they had to rely on imported experts or people such as Lion Gardiner who gained knowledge through foreign experience. But could they be trusted? And did they really know what they claimed to know? Reliance created vulnerability, which often led to antipathy and even fear.