As for foreign trade . . . except for a few ships from Marseilles . . . maritime trade in the kingdom does not exist, to the point that for the French West Indies one-hundred-fifty Dutch vessels take care of all the trade, carry there the foodstuffs that grow in Germany and the goods manufactured by themselves, and carry back sugar, tobacco, dyestuffs, which they take home, where they pay customs duty on entry, have processed, pay export duties, and bring them back to us . . . The value of these goods amounts to two million ... every year, in return for which they take away what they need of our manufactures.

Instead, if we ran our own West Indies trade, they would be obliged to bring us these two million in hard cash . . . I believe everyone will easily agree to this principle, that only the abundance of money in a State makes the difference in its greatness and power. Aside from the advantages that the entry of a greater quantity of cash into the kingdom will produce, it is certain that, thanks to the manufactures, a million people who now languish in idleness will be able to earn a living. An equally considerable number will earn their living by navigation and in the seaports. The almost infinite increase in the number of ships will multiply to the same degree the greatness and power of the State. These, in my opinion, are the goals that should be the aim of the King's efforts and of his goodness and love for his people.

**Questions**

1. What type of trade does Colbert discuss in this excerpt?

2. Who is doing much of the shipping for France? Whose goods are they selling in the New World? Who do those colonies belong to?

3. What are they doing to raise the price of imports to France?

4. What does Colbert say is the measure of the glory of a nation?

5. How does control over trade benefit every aspect of the economy and society?

6. What does Colbert believe need to be built to enable the building of wealth for France?