CHAPTER 19

Early Latin America

CHAPTER SUMMARY

The new Latin American empires of Spain and Portugal maintained special contacts with the West. Western forms were imposed on indigenous cultures as the militarily superior European invaders conquered their lands. Latin America became part of the world economy as a dependent region. The Iberians mixed with native populations and created new political and social forms. The resulting mixture of European, African, and Indian cultures created a distinctive civilization. Indian civilization, although battered and transformed, survived and influenced later societies. Europeans sought economic gain and social mobility; they used coerced laborers or slaves to create plantations and mine deposits of precious metals or diamonds.

Spaniards and Portuguese: From Reconquest to Conquest. Iberians had long inhabited a frontier zone where differing cultures interacted. Muslims invaded and conquered in the 8th century; later, small Christian states formed and began a long period of reconquest. By the middle of the 15th century, a process of political unification was under way. Castile and Aragon were united through marriage. Granada, the last Muslim kingdom, fell in 1492, and Castile expelled its Jewish population.

Iberian Society and Tradition. The distinctive features of Iberian societies became part of their American experience. They were heavily urban; many peasants lived in small centers. Commoners coming to America sought to become nobles holding Indian-worked estates. Strong patriarchal ideas were reflected in the family life, which was based on encomiendas, large estates worked by Indians. The Iberian tradition of slavery came to the New World. So did political patterns. Political centralization in Portugal and Castile depended on a professional bureaucracy of trained lawyers and judges. Religion and the Catholic church were closely linked to the state. The merchants of Portugal and Spain had extensive experience with the slave trade and plantation agriculture on the earlier colonized Atlantic islands.

The Chronology of Conquest. A first conquest period between 1492 and 1570 established the main lines of administration and economy. In the second period, lasting to 1700, colonial institutions and societies took definite form. The third period, during the 18th century, was a time of reform and reorganization that planted seeds of dissatisfaction and revolt. From the late 15th century to about 1600, two continents and millions of people fell under European control. They were joined to an emerging Atlantic economy. Many Indian societies were destroyed or transformed in the process.

The Caribbean Crucible. The Caribbean experience was a model for Spanish actions in Latin America. Columbus and his successors established colonies. The Indians of the islands were distributed among Spaniards as laborers to form encomiendas. European pressures and diseases quickly destroyed indigenous populations and turned the islands into colonial backwaters. The Spaniards had established Iberian-style cities but had to adapt them to New World conditions. They were laid out in a grid plan with a central plaza for state and church buildings. Royal administration followed the removal of Columbus and his family from control. Professional
magistrates staffed the administrative structure; laws incorporated Spanish and American experience. The church joined in the process, building cathedrals and universities. During the early 16th century, Spanish women and African slaves joined the earlier arrivals, marking the shift from conquest to settlement. Ranches and sugar plantations replaced gold searching. By this time, most of the Indians had died or been killed. Some clerics and administrators attempted to end abuses; Bartolomé de las Casas began the struggle for justice for Indians. By the 1520s and 1530s, the elements of the Latin American colonial system were in place.

**The Paths of Conquest.** The conquest of Latin America was not a unified movement. A series of individual initiatives operating with government approval was the pattern. One prong of conquest was directed toward Mexico, the second at South America. In 1519, Hernán Cortés led an expedition into Mexico. He fought the Aztecs with the assistance of Indian allies. At Tenochtitlan, Moctezuma II was captured and killed. By 1535, most of central Mexico was under Spanish control as the Kingdom of New Spain. Francisco Pizarro in 1535 began the conquest of the Inca Empire, then weakened by civil war. Cuzco fell in 1533. The Spanish built their capital at Lima, and by 1540, most of Peru was under their control. Other Spanish expeditions expanded colonial borders. Francisco Vazquez de Coronado explored the American Southwest in the 1540s; Pedro de Valdivia conquered central Chile and founded Santiago in 1541. By 1570, there were 192 Spanish urban settlements in the Americas.

**The Conquerors.** The conquest process was regulated by agreements concluded between leaders and their government. Leaders received authority in return for promises of sharing spoils with the crown. The men joining expeditions received shares of the spoils. Most of the conquerors were not professional soldiers. They were individuals from all walks of life out to gain personal fortune and Christian glory. They saw themselves as a new nobility entitled to domination over an Indian peasantry. The conquerors triumphed because of their horses, better weapons, and ruthless leadership. The effect of endemic European diseases and Indian disunity eased their efforts. By 1570, the age of conquest was closing.

**Conquest and Morality.** The Spanish conquest and treatment of Indians raised significant philosophical and moral issues. Were conquest, exploitation, and conversion justified? Many answered that Indians were not fully human and were destined to serve Europeans. Converting Indians to Christianity was a necessary duty. In 1550, the Spanish ruler convoked a commission to rule on such issues. Father Bartolomé de las Casas defended the Indians, recognized them as humans, and argued that conversion had to be accomplished peacefully. The result was a moderation of the worst abuses, but the decision came too late to help most Indians.

**The Destruction and Transformation of American Indian Societies.** All indigenous peoples suffered from the European conquest. There was a demographic catastrophe of incredible proportions as disease, war, and mistreatment caused the loss of many millions of individuals. In one example, the population of central Mexico during the 16th century fell from 25 million to fewer than 2 million. The Spanish reacted by concentrating Indians in towns and seizing their lands. An entirely different type of society emerged.

**Exploitation of the Indians.** The Spanish maintained Indian institutions that served their goals. In Mexico and Peru, the traditional nobility, under Spanish authority, presided over taxation and labor demands. Enslavement of Indians, except in warfare, was prohibited by the middle of the 16th century. In place of slavery, the government awarded encomiendas (land
grants) to conquerors who used their Indians as a source of labor and taxes. The harshness of encomiendas contributed to Indian population decline. From the 1540s, the crown, not wanting a new American nobility to develop, began to modify the system. Most encomiendas disappeared by the 1620s. Colonists henceforth sought grants of land, not labor. The state continued to extract labor and taxes from Indians, who worked in mines and other state projects. Many Indians, to escape forced labor, fled their villages to work for wages from landowners or urban employers. Despite the disruptions, Indian culture remained resilient and modified Spanish forms to Indian ways.

In Depth: The Great Exchange. The Spanish and Portuguese arrival ended the isolation of the New World from other societies. After 1500, millions of Europeans and Africans settled in the Americas. Biological and ecological exchange—called the Columbian Exchange—changed the character of both new and old societies. Old World diseases decimated New World populations. Old World animals quickly multiplied in their new environments and transformed the structures of Indian societies. Both Old and New Worlds exchanged crops and weeds. The spread of American plants, especially maize, manioc, and the potato, had a major effect, allowing population expansion in many world regions.

Colonial Economies and Governments. More than 80 percent of Spanish America's population was engaged in agriculture and ranching, but mining was the essential activity. Until the 18th century, the Spanish maritime commercial system was organized around the exchange of New World precious metals, especially silver, for European manufactured goods. The exchange made Latin America a dependent part of the world system.

The Silver Heart of The Empire. The major silver mines opened in Mexico and Peru during the middle of the 16th century. Potosí in Bolivia was the largest mine, and Zacatecas in Mexico resulted in the creation of wealthy urban centers. Mines were worked by Indians, at first through forced methods and later for wages. Mining techniques were European. The discovery of extensive mercury deposits was vital for silver extraction. The crown owned all subsoil rights; private individuals worked the mines at their expense, in return for giving the crown one-fifth of production. The government had a monopoly on the mercury used. The industry, dependent on a supply of food and other materials for workers, was a stimulus for the general economy.

Haciendas and Villages. Spanish America remained an agricultural economy. Large sedentary Indian populations continued traditional patterns. When population dwindled, Spanish rural estates (haciendas) emerged. Using Indian and mixed-ancestry workers, they produced grains, grapes, and livestock primarily for consumers in the Americas. The haciendas became the basis of wealth and power for a local aristocracy. In some regions, there was competition between haciendas and Indian farmers.

Industry and Commerce. Sheep-raising led to the formation of small textile sweatshops worked by Indian women. Latin America became self-sufficient in foodstuffs and material goods, requiring from Europe only luxury items. From the point of view of Spain and the world economy, silver ruled the commercial system. All trade was reserved for Spaniards and was funneled through Seville and Cádiz. A board of trade controlled commerce with the Indies. The board often worked with a merchant guild (consulado) in Seville that had extensive rights over American trade. To protect their silver fleets from rivals and pirates, the Spanish organized a convoy system made possible by the development of heavily armed galleons.
Galleons also transported Chinese products from the Philippines to Mexico. Strongly fortified Caribbean ports provided shelter for the ships. Only one fleet was lost before the system ended in the 1730s. The wealth in silver that went to Spain was used for state expenses and for manufactured goods for the Americas. Much of the silver left Spain and contributed to general European inflation. All through the period, Spain's wealth depended more on taxes than on American silver, although the prospect of its continuing import stimulated unwise government spending.

**Ruling an Empire: State and Church.** Sovereignty over the Spanish Empire rested with the crown, based on a papal grant awarding the Indies to Castile in return for its bringing the lands into the Christian community. The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) between Spain and Portugal regularized their conflicting claims by drawing a North-South line around the Earth; the eastern regions belonged to Portugal, the western to Spain. All of the Americas, except Brazil, went to Spain. Indians and many Europeans did not accept the decisions. The Spanish Empire became a bureaucratic system built on a juridical core of lawyers who had both legislative and administrative authority. The king ruled from Spain through the Council of Indies; in the Americas there were viceroyalties based in Mexico City and Lima. The viceroy, a high-ranking noble, represented the king and had extensive legislative, military, and judicial powers. The viceroyalties were divided into 10 divisions run by royal magistrates. At the local level, other magistrates, often accused of corruption, managed tax and labor service regulations. The clergy performed both secular and religious functions. They converted Indians and established Christian villages. Some defended Indian rights and studied their culture. In core areas, the formal institutional structure of the church eventually prevailed; since the state nominated church officials, they tended to support state policies. The church profoundly influenced colonial cultural and intellectual life through architecture, printing, schools, and universities. The Inquisition controlled morality and orthodoxy.

**Brazil: The First Plantation Colony.** The Portuguese reached Brazil in 1500 as Pedro Alvares Cabral voyaged to India. There was little to interest Europeans apart from dyewood trees; merchants received licenses for their exploitation. When French merchants became interested, a new system was established in 1532. Portuguese nobles were given land grants (captaincies) to colonize and develop. Towns were founded and sugar plantations were established using Indian and later, African, slave workers. In 1549, a royal governor created an administration with a capital at Salvador. Jesuit missionaries also arrived. Indian resistance was broken by disease, military force, and missionary action. Port cities developed to serve the growing number of sugar plantations increasingly worked by African slaves.

**Sugar and Slavery.** Brazil became the world's leading sugar producer. The growth and processing of sugar cane required large amounts of capital and labor. Brazil, with a single crop produced by slave labor, was the first plantation colony. In its social hierarchy, white planter families, linked to merchants and officials, dominated colonial life. Slaves, composing about one half of the total population at the close of the 17th century, occupied the bottom level. In-between was a growing population of mixed origins, poor whites, Indians, and Africans who were artisans, small farmers, herdsmen, and free workers. Portugal created a bureaucratic administrative structure under the direction of a governor general that integrated Brazil into the imperial system. The cores of the bureaucracy were lawyers. Regional governors often acted independently and, along with the governor general, reported directly to Lisbon. Missionaries had an important role: they ran ranches, mills, schools, and church
institutions. During the 17th century, Brazil became the predominant Portuguese colony. It remained closely tied to Portugal; there were no universities or printing presses to stimulate independent intellectual life.

**Brazil's Age of Gold.** Between 1580 and 1640, Portugal and Brazil shared the same monarch, the Habsburg ruler of Spain. During the 17th-century struggles between Spain and Holland, the Dutch occupied part of Brazil until expelled in 1654. Meanwhile, the Dutch, English, and French had established sugar plantation colonies in the Caribbean. The resulting competition lowered sugar prices and raised the cost of slaves. Brazil lost its position as predominant sugar producer, but exploring backwoods men (Paulistas) discovered gold in the Minas Gerais region in 1695. People rushed to the mines and formed new settlements. Mines were worked by slaves. Government controls followed to tightly manage a production that peaked between 1735 and 1760. Brazil then was the greatest source of gold in the Western world. The gold, and later diamond, discoveries opened the interior to settlement, devastated Indian populations, and weakened coastal agriculture. The government managed to reinvigorate coastal agriculture and control the slave trade, while the mines stimulated new ventures in farming and ranching. Rio de Janeiro, nearer to the mines, became a major port and the capital in 1763. A societal hierarchy based on color remained in force. The gold and diamonds did not contribute much to Portuguese economic development. The resources gained allowed Portugal to import manufactured goods instead of creating its own industries.

**Multiracial Societies.** The conquest and settlement of Latin America by Europeans formed large multiethnic societies. Indians, Europeans, and Africans came together in hierarchies of color, status, and occupation. By the 18th century, mixed peoples (castas) were a major population segment.

**The Society of Castas.** The key to societal development was miscegenation. Indian women suffered sexual exploitation from Europeans, and the crown sponsored marriages in a society where there were few European women. The result was the mestizo population possessing higher status than Indians. A similar process occurred in colonies with large African slave populations. American realities had created new social distinctions based on race and place of birth. Europeans were always at the top; African slaves and Indians occupied the bottom. Mestizos filled the intermediate categories. Restrictions were placed on mixed-origin people, but social mobility was not halted. Over time, distinctions grew between Spaniards born in Spain (peninsulares) and the New World (Creoles). The latter dominated local economies and developed a strong sense of identity that later contributed to independence movements. Society as a whole remained subject to Iberian patriarchal forms. Women were under male authority; upper-class women were confined to household occupations, but many from the lower class participated in the economy.

**The 18th Century Reforms.** Spain and Portugal shared in the 18th-century European intellectual ferment and in the changes forced by new demographic and economic trends. European population growth and 18th-century wars gave the colonies new importance. Both Spanish and Portuguese empires revived, but with long-term important consequences detrimental to their continuation.

**The Shifting Balance of Politics and Trade.** Spain's colonial system by the 18th century required serious reform. Spain was weakened by poor rulers, foreign wars, and internal civil
and economic problems. France, Britain, and Holland were dangerous enemies; during the 17th century, they seized Spanish Caribbean islands and developed their own plantation societies. As the Spanish mercantile and political system declined, the flow of silver dropped and the colonies became increasingly self-sufficient. Local aristocrats took control over their regions, while corruption was rampant in government. Crisis occurred in 1701 when disputes over the Spanish royal succession caused international war. The Treaty of Utrecht (1713) ended the fighting and, for concessions opening the colonies to some foreign trade, recognized the Bourbon family as rulers of Spain.

**The Bourbon Reforms.** The new dynasty worked to strengthen Spain. Charles III (1759-1788) instituted fiscal, administrative, and military reforms in an effort to create a rational, planned government. The Jesuits were expelled from Spain and the empire in 1767, but the church remained an ally of the regime. French bureaucratic models were introduced, taxation was reformed, and ports were opened to less restricted trade by Spanish merchants. In the Americas, new viceroyalties were created in New Granada and Rio de la Plata to provide better defense and administration. Under the authority of José de Galvez, broad general reforms followed. Creoles were removed from upper bureaucratic positions. The intendency system, borrowed from the French, provided more efficient rule by Spanish officials. As an ally of France, Spain was involved in the 18th-century Anglo-French world wars. In the Seven Years War, the English seized Florida and occupied Havana. The losses stimulated military reform. More troops went to the New World, and Creole militias were formed. Frontiers were defended and expanded; California was settled. The government took an active role in the economy. State monopolies were founded and monopoly companies opened new regions for development. More liberal trade regulations expanded Caribbean commerce. Cuba became a full plantation colony. Buenos Aires presided over a booming economy based on beef and hides. The more open trade, however, damaged local industries. Mining revived with new discoveries worked by improved technology. The Bourbon changes had revitalized the empire, but in the process, they stimulated growing dissatisfaction among colonial elites.

**Pombal and Brazil.** The marquis of Pombal directed Portuguese affairs from 1755 to 1776. He labored to strengthen the Portuguese economy and to lessen his country's dependence on England, especially regarding the flow of Brazilian gold to London. The authoritarian Pombal suppressed opposition to his policies; the Jesuits were expelled from the empire in 1759. Reforming administrators worked in Brazil to end lax or corrupt practices. Monopoly companies were formed to stimulate agriculture. New regions began to flourish, among them the undeveloped Amazon territory. Rio de Janeiro became the capital. Pombal abolished slavery in Portugal, but not in Brazil. To help increase population growth, Indians were removed from missionary control and mixed marriages were encouraged. The reforms had minimal effect on society: the colony remained based on slavery. The trade balance first improved, but then suffered when demand for Brazilian products remained low.

**Reforms, Reactions, and Revolts.** By the middle of the 18th century, the American Iberian colonies shared world growth in population and productive capacity. They were experiencing a boom in the last years of the century. But the many reforms had disrupted old power patterns, at times producing rebellions. In New Granada, the widespread Comunero Revolt occurred in 1781. A more serious outbreak, the Tupac Amaru rising, broke out among Peruvian Indians. Brazil escaped serious disturbances. The movements had different social bases, but they demonstrated increased local dissatisfaction with imperial policies. Sharp social divisions
among colonial groups hindered effective revolutionary action until Spain and Portugal were weakened by European political and social turmoil.

**Global Connections: Latin American Civilization and the World Context.** The large colonies of Portugal and Spain provided an important place in the expanding world economy. By the 18th century, weakened internal situations allowed European rivals to benefit directly from Iberian colonial trade. Portugal and Spain had transferred their cultures to the Americas, recreating there a version of Iberian life modified by local influence. Surviving Indian populations adapted to the colonial situation, and a distinctive multiethnic and multiracial society emerged that mixed the cultures of all participants. Where slavery prevailed, African cultures played a major role. Latin American civilization was distinct from the West, but related to it. In world markets, Latin American products remained in demand, maintaining a society with its economic life dependent on outside factors.

**KEY TERMS**

**Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile:** Monarchs of Christian kingdoms; their marriage created the future Spain; initiated exploration of the New World.

**Encomiendas:** Grants of estates Indian laborers made to Spanish conquerors and settlers in Latin America; established a framework for relations based on economic dominance.

**Hispaniola:** First island in the Caribbean settled by Spaniards; settled by Columbus on his second voyage.

**Bartolomé de las Casas:** Dominican friar who supported peaceful conversion of the Native American population; opposed forced labor and advocated Indian rights.

**Hernán Cortés:** Led expedition to Mexico in 1519; defeated Aztec Empire and established Spanish colonial rule.

**Moctezuma II:** Last independent Aztec ruler; killed during Cortés' conquest.

**Mexico City:** Capital of New Spain, built on ruins of Tenochtitlan.

**New Spain:** Spanish colonial possessions in Mesoamerica in territories once part of Aztec imperial system.

**Francisco Pizarro:** Began conquest of Inca Empire in 1535.

**Francisco Vazquez de Coronado:** Led Spanish expedition into the southwestern United States in search of gold.

**Pedro de Valdivia:** Spanish conqueror of Araucanian Indians of Chile; established city of Santiago in 1541.

**Mita:** Forced labor system replacing Indian slaves and encomienda workers; used to mobilize labor for mines and other projects.
Colombian Exchange: Biological and ecological exchange that occurred after European arrival in the New World; peoples of Europe and Africa came to the Americas; animals, plants, and diseases moved between the Old and New Worlds.

Potosí: Largest New World silver mine; located in Bolivia.

Huancavelica: Greatest mercury deposit in South America; used in American silver production.

Haciendas: Rural agricultural and herding estates; produced for consumers in America; basis for wealth and power of the local aristocracy.

Casa de la Contratación: Spanish board of trade operated out of Seville; regulated commerce with the New World.

Consulado: Merchant guild of Seville with a virtual monopoly over goods shipped to Spanish America; handled much of the silver shipped in return.

Galleons: Large, heavily armed ships used to carry silver from New World colonies to Spain; basis of convoy system used for transportation of bullion.

Treaty of Tordesillas: Concluded in 1494 between Castile and Portugal; clarified spheres of influence and rights of possession; Brazil went to Portugal and the rest to Spain.

Recopilación: Body of laws collected in 1681 for Spanish New World possessions; bases of law in the Indies.

Council of the Indies: Spanish government body that issued all laws and advised the king on all issues dealing with the New World colonies.

Letrados: University-trained lawyers from Spain; basic personnel of the Spanish colonial bureaucratic system.

Viceroyalties: Major divisions of Spanish New World colonies headed by direct representatives of the king; one was based in Lima, the other in Mexico City.

Audiencia: Royal courts of appeals established in Spanish New World colonies; staffed by professional magistrates who made and applied laws.

Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: 17th-century author, poet, and musician of New Spain; gave up secular concerns to concentrate on spiritual matters.

Pedro Alvares Cabral: Portuguese leader of an expedition to India; landed in Brazil in 1500.

Captaincies: Areas along the Brazilian coast granted to Portuguese nobles for colonial development.

Paulistas: Backswoodsmen from São Paulo, Brazil; penetrated Brazilian interior in search of precious metals during the 17th century.
Minas Gerais: Brazilian region where gold was discovered in 1695; a gold rush followed.

Rio de Janeiro: Brazilian port used for mines of Minas Gerais; became capital in 1763.

Sociedad de castas: Spanish-American social system based on racial origins; Europeans on top, mixed race in the middle, Indians and African slaves at the bottom.

Peninsulares: Spanish-born residents of the New World.

Creoles: People of European ancestry born in Spanish New World colonies; dominated local economies; ranked socially below peninsulares.

Amigos del país: Clubs and associations dedicated to reform in Spanish colonies; flourished during the 18th century; called for material improvement rather than political reform.

War of the Spanish Succession: Caused by the succession of the Bourbon family to the Spanish throne in 1701; ended by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713; resulted in recognition of Bourbons, territorial loss, and grants of commercial rights to English and French.

Charles III: Spanish enlightened monarch (1759-1788); instituted fiscal, administrative, and military reforms in Spain and its empire.

Commercio libre: Opened trade in ports of Spain and the Indies to all Spanish merchants during the reign of Charles III; undercut monopoly of consulados.

José de Galvez: Spanish Minister of the Indies and chief architect of colonial reform; moved to eliminate Creoles from the upper colonial bureaucracy; created intendants for local government.

Marquis of Pombal: Prime Minister of Portugal (1755-1776); strengthened royal authority in Brazil, expelled the Jesuits, enacted fiscal reforms, and established monopoly companies to stimulate the colonial economy.

Comunero Revolt: A popular revolt against Spanish rule in New Granada in 1781; suppressed due to government concessions and divisions among rebels.

Tupac Amaru: Mestizo leader of Indian revolt in Peru; supported by many in the lower social classes; revolt failed because of Creole fears of real social revolution.

Carribbean: First area of Spanish exploration and settlement; served as experimental region for nature of Spanish colonial experience; encomienda system of colonial management initiated here.

Encomendero: The holder of a grant of native Americans who were required to pay a tribute or provide labor. The encomendero was responsible for their integration into the church.

Enlightened despotism: Actions of absolute rulers which have been influenced by the philosophical ideas of the Enlightenment.
Corregidores: Term used in Mexico for local magistrates.

War of Spanish Succession: (1701 – 1714) European war which was caused by the death of the last Spanish Hapsburg and the subsequent question of succession.

LES SION SUGGESTIONS

Peoples Analysis Brazil, Society of Castas

Conflict Analysis Eighteenth-century revolts in the Americas

Change Analysis Indian societies after the Iberians; eighteenth-century reforms in Europe

Document Analysis A Vision from the Vanquished

Dialectical Journal In Depth: The Great Exchange

LECTURE SUGGESTIONS

Evaluate the following statement: Spanish and Portuguese colonies were extensions of the global network of the West. The mixed economies established in Latin America initially were based on estate agriculture systems (sugar) staffed by coerced labor (African slaves or encomienda grants). Mining—silver by the Spanish, gold and diamonds in Brazil—developed later. Ranching developed to supply local demands, as did small industries, such as textiles. The result was an economy typical of the dependent economic zone in the global trade network. The Iberian nations served as a conduit of American goods to the core economic region of northwestern Europe. Both nations failed to develop banking systems or industrial capacity. Their negative balance of trade led to the outflow of bullion from the New World to the core economic region.

Compare the social organization of the Americas and Europe, and explain why the differences in social hierarchy contributed to a sense of self-identity in the colonies. The great difference was the significance of color and the existence of miscegenation. Their presence created a social hierarchy based not so much on wealth or the prestige associated with social function that was typical in Europe but on a hierarchy based on color. Whites (divided into peninsulares and Creoles) were at the top, mixed races (castas) in the middle, and blacks and Indians at the bottom. The distinct social system gave rise to a sense of self-identity, especially among Creoles and castas. It created a sense of difference from Europeans, contributed to 18th-century rebellions, and eventually stimulated independence movements.

CLASS DISCUSSION SUGGESTIONS

Describe the diffusion of Iberian society to the New World.

Distinctive features of Iberian societies became part of their American experience. Among the aspects were small urban centers, and commoners coming to America sought to become nobles
holding Indian-worked estates. Strong patriarchal ideas were reflected in the family life, which was based on encomiendas, large estates worked by Indians. The Iberian tradition of slavery came to the New World, as did the political pattern of centralization. The religion was strongly Roman Catholic.

Define the model for American colonization that was established in the Caribbean.

The model was to transplant the European society, laden with new ideas, into this “new” land. This model was really to make the move to the new land more tolerable for the Europeans.

Describe the nature of the exploitation of Indians in the Americas.

The nature of the exploitation of the native population by the Spanish was beneficial to the Spanish. They maintained native institutions that served Spanish goals. Enslavement of natives, except in warfare, was prohibited by the middle of the 16th century. In place of slavery, the government awarded encomiendas (land grants) to conquerors who used their natives as a source of labor and taxes.

Define the economy of the American colonies.

Upwards of 80 percent of colonists were involved in agricultural production, while the bulk of the remainder was involved in mining. The economy of the American colonies was dependent upon imports of finished European goods, while the colonies exported raw materials.

Identify the nature of the Spanish system of government in the American colonies.

Sovereignty rested with the Spanish crown, based on a papal grant awarding the Indies to Castile in return for its bringing the lands into the Christian community. The Spanish Empire was a bureaucratic system with a core of lawyers who held both legislative and administrative authority. In theory, the king ruled from Spain through the Council of Indies; in the Americas there were viceroyalties based in Mexico City and Lima. The viceroy, high-ranking nobles holding broad-ranging powers, represented the king. The viceroyalties were divided into 10 divisions run by royal magistrates. At the local level, other magistrates, often accused of corruption, managed tax and labor service regulations. The church held great influence at all levels within this system.

Describe the change that the discovery of gold and diamonds made on the economic organization of Brazil.

The gold and diamond discoveries opened the interior of Brazil to settlement, devastated Indian populations, and weakened coastal agriculture. The discovery lead to government policies that stimulated agriculture. Rio de Janeiro became a major port and the capital in 1763. All of this occurred at a time when the price of sugar was causing Brazil to be less important in world markets.

Describe the social hierarchy of the American colonies.

A societal hierarchy based on color remained in force. Indian women suffered sexual exploitation from Europeans, and the crown sponsored marriages in a society where there were
few European women. The result was mestizo population possessing higher status than Indians. A similar process occurred in colonies with large African slave populations. American realities had created new social distinctions based on race and place of birth. Europeans were always at the top; African slaves and Indians occupied the bottom. Mestizos filled the intermediate categories. Distinctions grew between Spaniards born in Spain (peninsulares) and the New World (Creoles). Women were under male authority; upper-class women were confined to household occupations, but many from the lower class participated in the economy.

**Compare the 18th-century reforms in Portuguese and Spanish colonies.**

The 18th century brought about renewed interest in the colonies. European wars had brought about the relaxing of policies and new freedoms while providing the mother countries with much-needed capital. The reforms included: creation of more viceroyalties to allow for better defense and administration, lessening of the Catholic church’s influence in political decisions, and removal of Creoles from administrative positions.
MULTIPLE CHOICE. Choose the one alternative that best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. Which of the following was NOT characteristic of Iberian society?
   A) Heavy urbanization
   B) Absence of slaveholding traditions
   C) Emphasis on nobility
   D) Emphasis on patriarchal ideals
   E) Peasants living in small population centers

2. Which of the following practices was extended to the Americas as a result of Portuguese commercial and colonial experience elsewhere?
   A) The encomienda
   B) Intendancy
   C) The mita
   D) African slavery
   E) The production of tobacco

3. Which of the following practices was originally part of Columbus's plans for the administration of the New World discoveries?
   A) Fortified ports
   B) Viceroyalties
   C) Slavery
   D) Audiencias
   E) The intendancy

4. Which of the following men was an advocate of Indian rights?
   A) Hernán Cortés
   B) Pedro de Valdivia
   C) Christopher Columbus
   D) Garcia Floridablanca
   E) Bartolomé de Las Casas

5. When the encomienda system began to fail, the Spanish government
   A) responded by the creation of a free labor system.
   B) began to rely on Indian labor extracted through local officials, the mita.
   C) permitted the enslavement of the Indian population.
   D) enforced its continuation by passage of a series of restrictive laws.
   E) encouraged the use of African slaves.
6. The Spanish commercial system with the Latin American colonies was organized around

   A) plantation agriculture.
   B) mining.
   C) textile workshops.
   D) ranching.
   E) trading.

7. In 1494, Spain and Portugal clarified the boundaries of their colonial possessions in the

   A) Treaty of Tordesillas.
   C) Treaty of Utrecht.
   D) Treaty of Westphalia.
   E) Treaty of Demarcation.

8. In its final form, the Spanish colonial government in Latin America was divided at first into two and later into four

   A) audiencias.
   B) consulados.
   C) corregidores.
   D) viceroyalties.
   E) encomiendas.

9. In contrast to the Spanish colonies, Brazil's economy was initially devoted to

   A) mining.
   B) ranching.
   C) estate agriculture.
   D) textile workshops.
   E) trading.

10. By 1700, slaves comprised approximately what proportion of the Brazilian population?

    A) One-quarter
    B) One-third
    C) One-half
    D) Two-thirds
    E) Three-fourths
SHORT ANSWER. Write the word or phrase that best completes each statement or answers the question.

1. The Dominican friar __________ initiated the struggle for justice for Native Americans in Spanish colonies.

2. __________ was built by the Spaniards on the ruins of Tenochtitlan as the capital of New Spain.

3. Unlike the Spaniards in Mexico, when the Inca capital of Cuxco fell in 1533, the conquerors built their new capital of __________ closer to the coast.

4. In the 16th century, the encomienda was gradually replaced by the __________, a system of labor drafts.

5. Rural estates, or __________, producing primarily for consumers in America, became the basis of wealth and power for the local aristocracy in many regions.

6. The Spanish scholar __________ argued that Indians were not fully human and thus enslaving them was acceptable.

7. The Treaty of __________, signed in 1494 by Spain and Portugal, clarified the spheres of influence of the two nations.

8. The body of laws for the Indies was so large and varied that it took almost a century to complete a great law code, the __________.

9. In New Granada, popular complaints against the government's control of tobacco and liquor led to the widespread __________ Revolt in 1781.

10. In Peru, a great Indian uprising took place under the leadership of Jose Gabriel Condorcanqui, known as __________.
TRUE/FALSE. Write 'T' if the statement is true and 'F' if the statement is false.

1. In 1452, the marriage of Ferdinand, Prince of Aragon, and Isabella, Princess of Castile, brought the crowns of Aragon and Castile into close alliance. **T**

2. In 1535, Francisco Pizarro led his men to the conquest of the Aztec Empire. **F**

3. During the 17th century, Brazil held the position as the world's leading producer of sugar. **T**

4. José de Gálvez moved to cement the authority of the Creoles in the upper bureaucracy of the Spanish colonies. **T**

5. A mestizo with direct links to the family of the Incas, Tupac Amaru led a rebellion against "bad government." **T**

6. The patriarchal family was readily adapted to Latin America where large estates and grants of Indian laborers, or encomiendas, provided the framework for relations based on economic dominance. **T**

7. Portuguese peasants were given strips of land along the coast called capitaincies to colonize and develop. **T**

8. In 1778 the policy of encomendaros opened trade to many ports in Spain and the Indies. **T**

9. Within the Indies, Spain created two viceroyalties in the 16th century, one centered on Mexico City and the other on Lima. **T**

10. The treasure fleets of Spain were made possible by the development of large, heavily armed ships called black ships. **T**
ANSWER KEY

Multiple Choice

2. D  7. A
3. A  8. D
4. E  9. C
5. B  10. C

Short Answer

1. Answer: Bartolomé de las Casas
2. Answer: Mexico City
3. Answer: Lima
4. Answer: mita
5. Answer: haciendas
6. Answer: Juan Gines de Sépulveda
7. Answer: Tordesillas
8. Answer: Recopilación
9. Answer: Comunero
10. Answer: Tupac Amaru

True/False

1. T  6. T
2. F  7. F
3. T  8. F
4. F  9. T
5. T  10. F
CHAPTER 19

TIMELINE

Insert the following events into the timeline. This should help you to compare important historical events chronologically.

Bourbons recognized as rulers in Spain
Comunero, Tupac Amaru Revolts
Cabral lands in Brazil
Treaty of Tordesillas
Pizarro conquers Cuzco
gold discovered in Brazil

____ 1494____ 1500
____ 1533
____ 1695
____ 1713
____ 1781

TERMS, PEOPLE, EVENTS

The following terms, people, and events are important to your understanding of the chapter. Define each one on a separate sheet of paper.

audiencia    Casa de Contratación    captaincies
Bartolomé de las Casas    Rio de Janeiro    Comunero Revolt
consulado    recopilación    Antilles
Coronado    Potosí    Granada
encomendero    haciendas    Caribbean
encomienda    Caribbean    Hispaniola
Francisco Pizarro    Pedro de Valdivia    mita
Hernán Cortés    Mexico City    New Spain
Huancavelica    galleons
Jesuits    Habsburg monarchy    Philip of Anjou
José de Galvez    Juan Gines de Sépulveda
letrados    Minas Gerais    Pedro Cieza de Leon
Paulistas    peninsulares    Cuzco
Rio de la Plata    corregidores    Sancho de Monco
Bernardino de Sahagun    Diego de Landa    Mancio Serra
Treaty of Tordesillas    Creoles    Tiano people
Treaty of Utrecht    enlightened despotism    New Granada
War of the Spanish Succession    Marquis of Pombal    Santiago
sociedad de castas    Tupac Amaru
MAP EXERCISE

The following exercise is intended to clarify the geophysical environment and the spatial relationships among the important objects and places mentioned in the chapter. Locate the following places on the map.

Brazil  New Spain  Bahamas
Aztec Empire  Inca Empire  Cuba

Why did Spanish and Portuguese explorers survey the Caribbean and Central and South America before North America?
Chapter 19
Early Latin America

I. Introduction
A. Cortes conquers Aztecs
   1. Amazed at beauty of Tenochtitlan - uncomparable
B. Pattern of conquest, continuity and rebuilding
   1. Spanish tried to utilized Native resources similarly
      a. Used materials from ruins to build own houses
      b. Used similar forced labor system
      c. Allowed to follow ancient customs
C. Impact of invasions
   1. Huge Spanish/Portuguese empires
   2. Latin America pulled into new world economy
   3. Hierarchy of world economic relationships – Europe on top
   4. New societies created – some incorporated, some destroyed
      a. Distinct civilization combining Iberian Peninsula w/ Native
   5. Created large landed estates
   6. Europeans came to Americas for economic gain and social mobility
   7. Exploited precious metals

II. Spaniards and Portuguese: From Reconquest to Conquest
A. Introduction
   1. Iberian Peninsula on the Eve of Exploration
      a. Tradition of military conquest and rule over other peoples
      b. Ferdinand and Isabella – unified and destroyed religious diversity
         a. Jews expelled
         b. Religious contributed to acceptance of Columbus’s idea
B. Iberian Society and Tradition
   1. Recreating Iberian life
      a. Urban cities surrounded by American Indians
      b. Conquerors as nobles with Indians as serfs
      c. Precedent of controlling African slaves
   2. Political rule
      a. Professional bureaucracy
      b. Theocracy – religion and Church influenced politics – vice versa
   3. Role of merchants
      a. Trading posts in Africa, but estates in Atlantic islands
      b. Trade factories turned into plantations - Brazil
C. The Chronology of Conquest
   1. Era of Conquest – 1492>1570 – administration and economy set-up
   2. Consolidation and Maturity – 1570>1700 – colonial institutions
   3. Reform and Reorganization – 1700>1800 – Reform and reorganization
      a. Seeds of dissatisfaction and revolt
D. The Caribbean Crucible
   1. Early island conquests – Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Cuba
   2. Treatment of natives – Taino natives distributed to encomendero
   3. City precedents – gridlike around central plaza – church, town hall, governor’s
   4. Methods of rule – governors, treasury officials, notaries, Spanish laws brought
   5. Early immigration
      a. Import African slaves
b. Women came also – conquest goal turned to settlement
c. Gold hunting phase initial then replaced by sugar plantations

6. Treatment of Natives – enslavement, disease, murder
7. Attempts at reform
   a. Clerics and priests tried to end abuses
   b. Bartolome d Las Casas – wrote of complaints

E. The Paths of Conquest
1. Taking over Central Mexico – between 1519 and 1535
   a. Not a movement, but series of individual initiatives
   b. Cortez defeats Aztecs in Tenochtitlan
2. Taking over South America
   a. Pizarro and Incas – Peru by 1540
3. Further exploration
   a. Densely populated areas first, then went after semisedentary/nomadic
   b. Coronado searches for gold goes into US
   c. 1570 192 Spanish cities and towns

F. The Conquerors
1. Motivation
   a. 1/5 of all treasure to crown
   b. Money then divided among men signed up, priority to friends/relatives
2. Types of people that were conquerors
   a. Hoping to improve selves
   b. Serve God by conquering heathen
   c. soldiers, gentlemen, some women
   d. saw selves as new nobility
3. Reasons for Spanish success
   a. Weapons – firearms/steel weapons
   b. Effective/ruthless leadership
   c. Epidemic diseases – smallpox, influenza, measles
   d. Internal divisions rivalries between Indians
   e. Mobile, nomadic tribes stiffer resistance than centralized states
4. Who replaced conquerors?
   a. bureaucrats, merchants, colonists
   b. sometimes conflict over transfer of power

G. Conquest and Morality
1. Reasons why treatment of Natives justified
   a. Aristotle argument – freeing Indians from unjust lord
   b. Indians not fully human
   c. Born to serve
2. Reasons why treatment of Natives not justified
   a. Rational people
   b. Never done harm like the Muslims
   c. Admirable customs and accomplishments
   d. Conversion should take place peacefully – Indians our brothers
3. Spanish crown tried to make changes, but too late

III. The Destruction and Transformation of Indian Societies
A. Introduction
1. Decline of population
   a. Caribbean population almost disappears – slavery, mistreatment, disease
   b. Mexico – 25 million > 2 million, Peru – 10 million > 1.5 million
2. Reasons for loss of population
a. Disease
b. Disruption of economic social structures – those left in chaos
c. Cattle replaced Indian population on Spanish farms/unclaimed land

B. Exploitation of the Indians
1. Native American life preserved
   a. Nobility kept in place to facilitate tax collection, labor demands
2. New methods of labor and taxation
   a. Encomienda system – use Indians as workers/servants/tax them
   b. Often arbitrary, excessive
   c. Without reciprocal obligation/protection – what have you done for me lately?
   d. Encomiendas ended because Spain didn’t want to compete with new nobility
   e. Thousands of Indians mobilized for state projects
   f. Some left towns and worked for Spanish – start of wage labor system
3. Resiliency to exploitation
   a. Some adapted and learned to use language, legal system, law courts
   b. Selective in their adaptation of European foods, technology, culture

IV. Colonial Economies and Governments
A. Introduction
   1. Agrarian society – 80% worked on farms
   2. Precious metals – mining efforts/booty of conquest essential activity
B. The Silver Heart of Empire
   1. Mining labor and methods
      a. Potosi in Peru – 160,000 people lived/worked in town/mine
      b. Laborers
         a. American Indian slaves – early encomienda system
         b. Changed to large # of wage laborers eventually
         c. Used European method of amalgamation w/ mercury (ahhhh…of course)
   2. Relation of mining to economy
      a. Gov’t profited 1/5 of profit + controlled mercury
      b. Service industries develop around mining towns
C. Haciendas and Villages
   1. Rural estates – basis of wealth and power for local aristocracy
      a. Some plantation crops sent overseas
D. Industry and Commerce
   1. Types of trade
      a. Sheep raising and textile manufacturing
      b. Mercantilism – only Spaniards allowed to trade w/ America
         1. consulado in Seville controlled all goods – kept prices high
   2. Fleet system
      a. Convoy system sent two fleets annually
         1. Came from Philippines as well twice annually
      b. Galleons protected
      c. ports created to guard treasure
   3. European reaction to supply of American silver
      a. ½ of silver remained in Spain
         1. Paid for Spanish wars
         2. Bought manufactured goods from elsewhere and then shipped
      b. Sharp rise in inflation
      c. Wealth of Spain still depended on taxation
      d. Bankers lended more money than they should have
E. Ruling an Empire: State and Church
1. Determining sovereignty
   a. North/South line – Treaty of Tordesillas – Brazil vs. everything else
2. Method of control of Spanish kingdoms
   a. University trained bureaucrats – letrados
   b. Codified laws – Recopilacion
   c. Two viceroyalties – one in Mexico City and one in Lima
      1. Viceroy controlled military, legislative, judicial powers
   d. Under viceroy – audiencias – professional magistrates at local level
3. Role of the Church
   a. Established churches in towns/villages
   b. Set up missions in frontier areas
   c. Recording and analysis of Indian culture – for conversion purposes
   d. Later, state appointed archbishops – subsequently, allegiance
4. Impact of the Church
   a. Stimulated architects with church/cathedral building
   b. Printing presses high percentage of religious books
   c. Schools run by clergy, universities – law and theology
   d. Tribunal of Inquisition to judge heretics

V. Brazil: The First Plantation Colony
   A. Introduction
      1. Early settlements
         a. At first, relations with Native Americans peaceful
         b. Sugar plantations established
         c. By 1600, 100,000 residents – 30,000 Europeans, 15,000 black slaves
   B. Sugar and Slavery
      1. Labor intensive
         a. Sugar had to be processed on site
         b. Required large amounts of capital for machinery – plantation only viable
      2. First great plantation economy
         a. Single crop produced by slave labor
         b. Social hierarchy reflected plantation/slave origins
            1. White planter family as aristocracy
            c. Slaves at bottom of social hierarchy
            d. Mixed origin – became artisans, small farmers, herders, free laborers
      3. Government structure
         a. Royal officials trained in law ruled by governor
         b. Jesuits – religious group supported by cattle ranches/sugar mills
         c. Didn’t have independent printing presses, intellectual life
            1. Closer connection to Portugal than New Spain to Spain
   C. Brazil’s Age of Gold
      1. Competition with Europe
         a. Affected by change in ruling monarchies
         b. French entrance into Caribbean lowered price of sugar, increased slave price
      2. Gold rush begins
         a. 1695 gold discovered in interior regions
         b. 5000 immigrants a year, went to interior
         c. Used slaves for mining labor
         d. Wild towns initially turned into network of towns
         e. 1735>1760 Brazil greatest producer of gold in the world
      3. Impact of gold discovery
         a. Opened interior to settlement
1. Hurt indigenous population
b. Mining stimulated opening of new areas to ranching and farming
c. Rio de Janeiro – closest port to mines – grew
d. Hierarchy of color in new areas
e. Portugal continued negative economic policies
   1. Buy manufactured goods from abroad, not make
      a. Gold went from Portugal to England
      b. Trade imbalance
      c. Became economically dependent on England

VI. Multiracial Societies
A. Introduction
   1. Relation of different ethnic groups
      a. Europeans, Indians, slaves
      1. All came for different reasons
      2. Hierarchy based on
         i. master vs. servant
         ii. Christian vs. pagan
B. The Society of Castas
   1. Miscegenation
      a. Few European women available
      b. Sexual exploitation of women or marriage = mestizos
      c. Mestizos
         1. Intermediary – higher than Indians, but not as respected as Spanish
   2. Sociedad de castas
      a. Occupation important, but race at birth more instrumental
      b. Castas – people of mixed origin
         1. Mulattoes – half African/half European
         2. Mestizos – half Spanish/half Indian
      c. With marriage, hard to tell – someone lower could pass off as someone higher
   3. Class privileges
      a. Peninsulares – whites born in Spain
      b. Creoles – whites born in New World
         1. Dominated local economies
         2. Sensitive to any suggestion of inferiority
         3. Would be the leaders of future protest movements
   4. Patriarchal society
      a. Father has control of children to 25
      b. Women – motherhood and household
      c. Widow could assume direction of family
      d. Lower-class could be involved in commerce
      e. Marriages often arranged, came with dowry
      f. Women full rights of inheritance
      g. After a certain age, unmarried upper class women moved to convents

VII. The 18th Century Reforms
A. Introduction
   1. Changing ideas
      a. Amigos del pais – friends of the country – clubs that discussed reforms
         i. Goal – economic benefits
      b. Brief period of growth followed by decline
         i. expansion of European population
         ii. increased demand for American products
B. The Shifting Balance of Politics and Trade

1. Competition with Europe
   a. Problems in Spain
      i. foreign wars
      ii. increasing debt
      iii. declining population
      iv. internal revolts
   b. Pressure from France, England, Dutch
      i. Buccaneers raided Caribbean ports
      ii. General process of colonization in Americas

2. Failure of Spanish mercantile and political system
   a. Annual fleets became irregular
   b. Silver payments became fewer
   c. Goods shipped to colonies not Spanish
   d. Colonies became self-sufficient
      i. Mfg needed products
      ii. Local gov’ts became more powerful
   e. Graft/corruption common

3. Legal division of Spanish properties
   a. Spanish king dies without heir – War of the Spanish Succession
   b. Treaty of Utrecht – 1713 – French merchants gain more control
      i. Bourbon (French) king, but can’t unite France/Spain

C. The Bourbon Reforms

1. Causes of reform
   a. Age of enlightened despotism
   b. Strong central government
   c. economic nationalism
   d. Kicked out anyone who didn’t want to change – Jesuits tied to Rome
   e. Improvements
      i. French bureaucratic models
      ii. Tightened system of taxation
      iii. New navy
      iv. Fleet system abolished, new ports opened
      v. Try to get rid of graft
      vi. New methods of tax collection

2. Reform in the West Indies

3. Reforms in America
   a. Defense and military reforms
   b. Missions and outposts in frontier areas – California
   c. Resisted foreign competitors militarily

4. Changing trading regulations
   a. State monopolies established over tobacco, gunpowder
   b. Influx of cheap Spanish/English goods
      i. Conflict over free trade vs. locally made/more expensive goods

5. Impact of changes
   a. Spain - Revived Spanish Empire
   b. America – social tension
      i. removal of Creoles from gov’t
      ii. creation of Creole militia
      iii. dissatisfaction among elite

D. Pombal and Brazil
1. Pombal’s reforms
   a. Fiscal reforms to eliminate – contraband, gold smuggling, tax evasion
   b. Creation of monopoly companies
      i. Sent to develop Amazon region
   c. Encouraged whites to marry Indians – don’t need to be military controlled
2. Impact of Pombal’s reforms
   a. Reduced Portugal’s trade imbalance
   b. Demand for Brazilian products low
   c. Hard to compete in European market
   d. Set stage for independence at end of 18th century

E. Reforms, Reactions and Revolts
   1. 18th century American boom
      a. Population increase
         i. lower mortality
         ii. increasing fertility
         iii. increasing immigration
         iv. rising slave trade
   2. Changes in power
      a. Greater control from Spain/Portugal annoyed old power elite
      b. Urban uprisings, tax revolts, Indian uprisings
   3. Tupac – not the rapper
      a. Tupac Amaru – mestizo in Peru
      b. Led 70,000 Indians, Mestizos and Creoles – eventually executed
   4. What led to complaints and frustration
      a. Activism by mother country government
      b. Dissatisfaction of American colonies
      c. But…sharp ethnic divisions made it difficult to unify locals

VIII. Global Connections
   A. Colonial Empires
      1. Iberian nations transferred their culture, gov’t – recreated society
   B. Diverse societies
      1. Some indigenous cultures survived – Peru, Mexico
      2. Culture dependent on demographic breakdown – more slaves, Europeans, or Natives
      3. Racial hierarchies
   C. Relation to Russian Empires
      1. Development of coerced labor
      2. Impact of gunpowder
      3. Western forms imposed on populations, with resistance – Russia more selective
   D. Demand for Latin American products
      1. World economic position as dependant and based on coerced labor
Early Latin America
(1450 – 1750)
Section 1

Spanish & Portuguese Colonies in the Americas

In the 1500s, the Spanish set up a vast empire in the Americas from South America north to California while the Portuguese colonized Brazil.

The chronology of conquest breaks roughly into three periods:

- 1492 – 1570 Era of conquest
- 1570 – 1700 Colonial institutions & societies developed into a definite form
- 1700 – 1800 Period of reform and reorganization in Spanish America and Portuguese Brazil with strengthened the colonial relationship, laying the foundation for revolt

The Alamo Mission, Texas
Ruling the Spanish Empire

**Government**
- Spain was determined to maintain strict control over its empire.
- The empire was divided into five provinces, each of which was ruled by a **viceroy**.
- The Council of the Indies helped pass laws for the colonies.
- **Audiencias**, advisory councils of Spanish settlers, helped the viceroy to rule.

**The Catholic Church**
- The Church worked with the government to convert Native Americans to Christianity.
- Franciscan, Jesuit, and other missionaries baptized thousands of Native Americans.
- Church leaders often served as royal officials.
- Spanish **missionaries** introduced European culture including: European clothing, Spanish language, & new crafts, like locksmithing & carpentry.
The Economy

- Spain closely controlled trade.
- Colonists could export raw materials to Spain only and import only Spanish goods.
- Silver and gold were the most valuable exports, but silver more than gold formed the basis of Spain’s wealth in America.
- Sugar cane quickly became a profitable resource and was refined into sugar, molasses, and rum.
- **Plantations** were necessary for growing sugar cane.
- **Encomiendas**, or the right to demand labor and tribute from Native Americans, were granted to conquistadors.
- Spanish ranches and farms, called **haciendas**, emerged and provided the basis of wealth and power for the local aristocracy.
The Economy (cont.)

- Bartolomé de las Casas and other priests condemned the encomienda system.
- In 1542, Spain passed New Laws of the Indies forbidding the enslavement of Native Americans.
- Many natives became peons, workers forced to labor for a landlord to pay off a debt that could never be paid off.
To fill the labor shortage, colonists began to import Africans by the 1530s.

As demand for sugar cane increased, millions of African slaves were imported.

In time, Africans and their American-born descendents greatly outnumbered European settlers in the West Indies and parts of South America.

Many rebelled, ran away, or earned enough money to buy their freedom.
A Sugar Plantation Lithograph
Special Collections, Georgia State University

THE SUGAR HARVEST IN LOUISIANA—Drawn by A. R. Waud. (See Page 385.)
Africa's Slaves
Visual Source Documents 3 & 4

Document 3

Document 4

The Granger Collection, New York
Colonial Society and Culture

- In Spanish America, the mix of diverse people gave rise to a new social structure.

- At the top were **peninsulares**, people born in Spain, filling highest positions in colonial governments and Catholic Church.

- **Creoles**, were American-born descendants of Spanish settlers, and owned most of plantations, ranches, and mines.

- **Mestizos** were people of Native American and European descent.

- **Mulattoes** were people of African and European descent.

- Native Americans and people of African descent formed the lowest class.
Colonial Culture

- Catholic missionaries built mission churches and baptized thousands of Native Americans and set up schools profoundly influencing the cultural and intellectual life of the colonies.
- The blending of Native American, African, and European peoples and traditions resulted in a new American culture.
- Colonial cities were centers of government, commerce, and European culture.
- To meet the Church’s need for educated priests, the colonies built universities.
- Although Spanish culture was dominant in the cities, the blending of diverse traditions changed people’s lives throughout the Americas.
Nun Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz was an author, poet, musician, and social thinker.

She was welcomed into the court of the viceroy in Mexico City.

The tribunals of the Spanish Inquisition asserted its jurisdiction over Jews and Protestants, although usually the native Americans were exempted.
A Blended Culture

Indigenous Aztec dancers in Mexico City.

An image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of Mexico.

A photograph of a 1954 stone carved mural at the ITESM in Monterrey, Mexico, portraying a battle between the gods Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca.
Give three examples of cultural blending in Spain’s American empire.

1. *Spanish settlers built their homes in the style of Native Americans, ate their food, used native-style canoes, and were influenced by native arts.*

2. *The majority of people adopted Christianity and European imported horses and cattle.*

3. *African farming methods, cooking styles, crops, and arts (drama, dance, music) enriched the cultures of Spanish America.*
Comment by Johannes de Grevenbroek

“From us they have learned strife, quarreling, drunkenness, trickery, theft, unbridled desire for what is not one’s own, misdeeds unknown to them before, and the accursed lust for gold.”

- Do you think Grevenbroek’s comment accurately criticizes all of European society or only those involved directly in the slave trade?

- How do you think it was that a slave trader might come to hold such views?
The Portuguese Colony in Brazil

- The first official Portuguese landfall in South America occurred when Pedro Alvares Cabral landed in Brazil briefly in 1500 on his way to India.
- Portugal claimed Brazil under the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494.
- They issued grants of land, called capitaincies, to Portuguese nobles, who agreed to develop the land and share profits with the king.
- Landowners quickly turned to plantation agriculture and cattle raising.

Portuguese map (1574) by Luís Teixeira, showing the location of the hereditary captaincies of Brazil.
Portuguese map by Lopo Homem (c. 1519) showing the coast of Brazil and natives extracting brazilwood, as well as Portuguese ships.
Portuguese Economy in Brazil

- Natives and Africans cleared land and worked the plantations.
- During the 18th century 150,000 slaves were imported to work the sugar plantations.
- A new blended culture developed.

Sugar Plantation in 1823

View of a sugar-producing farm (*engenho*) in colonial Pernambuco by Dutch painter Frans Post (17th century).
Brazil’s Age of Gold

- From 1630 to 1654, the Dutch seized a portion of northwestern Brazil and controlled its sugar cane production.

- They were expelled in 1654, but by the 1680s the Dutch, French, and English had established their own plantation colonies in the Caribbean and were producing sugar with slave laborers.

- Although Brazil’s domination of sugar production was lost, hardy backwoodsmen called Paulistas, were exploring the interior and laying claim to it for Portugal.

- In 1695, gold strikes were made in the mountainous interior in a region that came to be called Minas Gerais (General Mines) leading to an economic revival in the Brazilian colony.
Challenging Spanish Power

To get around Spain’s strict control over colonial trade, smugglers traded illegally with Spanish colonists.

Dutch, English, and French pirates preyed on Spanish treasure ships. Some of these pirates, called privateers, even operated with the approval of European governments.

The Dutch, English, and French hunted for other gold empires and for a northwest passage to Asia.
18th Century Reforms

- In the 18th century Spain’s power began to decline as the mercantile systems of England, France, and Holland began to increase.

- Spain lost exclusive control of the Indies as the French, English, and Dutch ship captains raided Spanish colonies and ships.

- In 1654, the English took Jamaica and in 1697, the French took control of western Hispaniola (Haiti). Other islands fell to the English, French, and Dutch.

- In Spanish colonies graft and corruption were rampant as Spain’s central government became weaker and local aristocrats gained power.

- Then in 1701, when the Spanish king Charles II died without an heir, Philip of Anjou, a Bourbon and thus relative to the king of France, was named successor to the Spanish throne.

- The War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1713) ensued resulting in the Treaty of Utrecht (1713) which recognized the Bourbon family as rulers in Spain.

- Spain’s commercial monopoly in Spanish America was broken.
The Bourbon Reforms in Latin America

- The government and military was reformed in Spanish America.

- French bureaucratic models were introduced and taxation systems were tightened.

- Monopoly companies were granted exclusive rights to develop certain colonial areas in return for developing the economies in those regions leading to greater supplies and cheaper products.

- As the economies in Europe expanded, English and Spanish goods became more accessible and cheaper, undercutting locally made goods, which resulted in declining economies in Latin America leading to conflicts between those who wanted free-trade and those who wanted to limit imports.
Reforms in Brazil

- **Marquis of Pombal**, Prime Minister in Portugal, paralleled the reforms of the Bourbons in Brazil.

- This led to an increase in production and the development of cotton plantations and cacao production in Brazil.

- He abolished slavery in Portugal to encourage more slaves to be sent to Brazil.

- He reduced the imbalance of trade with England, but the demand for Brazilian products remained low on the world market.

- While not immediately successful, his reforms laid the framework for an economic boom starting in the 1880s that set the stage for Brazilian independence.

King Joseph I of Portugal was devoted to the Church and the opera. He succeeded to the Portuguese throne in 1750 and almost immediately placed effective power in the hands of Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo, better known today as the Marquis of Pombal.