

DIVIDING UP THE WORLD



Christopher Columbus's voyages inspired others to follow in his footsteps and led to heightened tensions between Spain and Portugal. Both nations claimed the right to any lands they explored. To avoid war, they signed the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494. The treaty drew a Line of Demarcation that ran from north to south, about 1,100 west of the Azores in the Atlantic. It gave Spain the right to claim all non-Christian lands west of the line. Portugal claimed lands east of the line.

CONQUEST



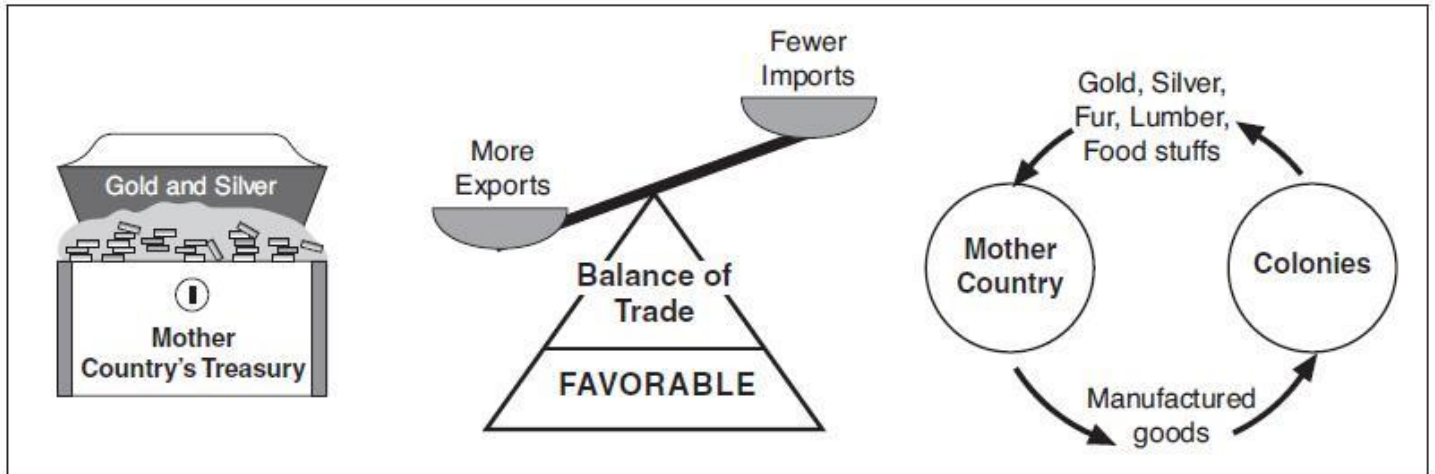
The European conquest of Latin America began in 1492 with the voyages of Christopher Columbus. He and other Europeans depopulated large parts of the Caribbean as they enslaved native peoples and searched for gold. When little was found they desperately hunted for the mythical Seven Golden Cities of Cibola in North America and the fabled kingdom of El Dorado ("the Golden One") in South America.

Two years after landing a small force in Mexico in 1519, Hernando Cortes conquered the mighty Aztec empire. This was possible in large part because of thousands of indigenous allies and superior Spanish weapons: steel armor, swords, ferocious trained dogs, war horses, and loud (if somewhat inaccurate) firearms. But above all, germs were the deadliest factor. Europeans unwittingly brought smallpox, influenza, bubonic plague, and other maladies that slew millions, including allies. With governments, armies, and economies wrecked by disease, the Indians struggled to maintain organized defenses. Within a century populations in many areas had dropped by 90 percent.

In the 1530s Francisco Pizarro applied lessons learned from Cortes to his own conquest of the Inca empire of South America. Among the epoch's other notorious conquistadors were Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca and Francisco Coronado in northern Mexico, Vasco Núñez de Balboa (who crossed Panama to "discover" the Pacific Ocean)... Pedro Álvares Cabral claimed Brazil for Portugal in 1500. The hunter-gatherers of the Pampas and rainforests were more successful at resisting invasion (until the 1800s) because of their dispersed settlements, because of their hit-and-run tactics, and, ironically, because they lacked strong centralized governments.

MERCANTILISM

A European View



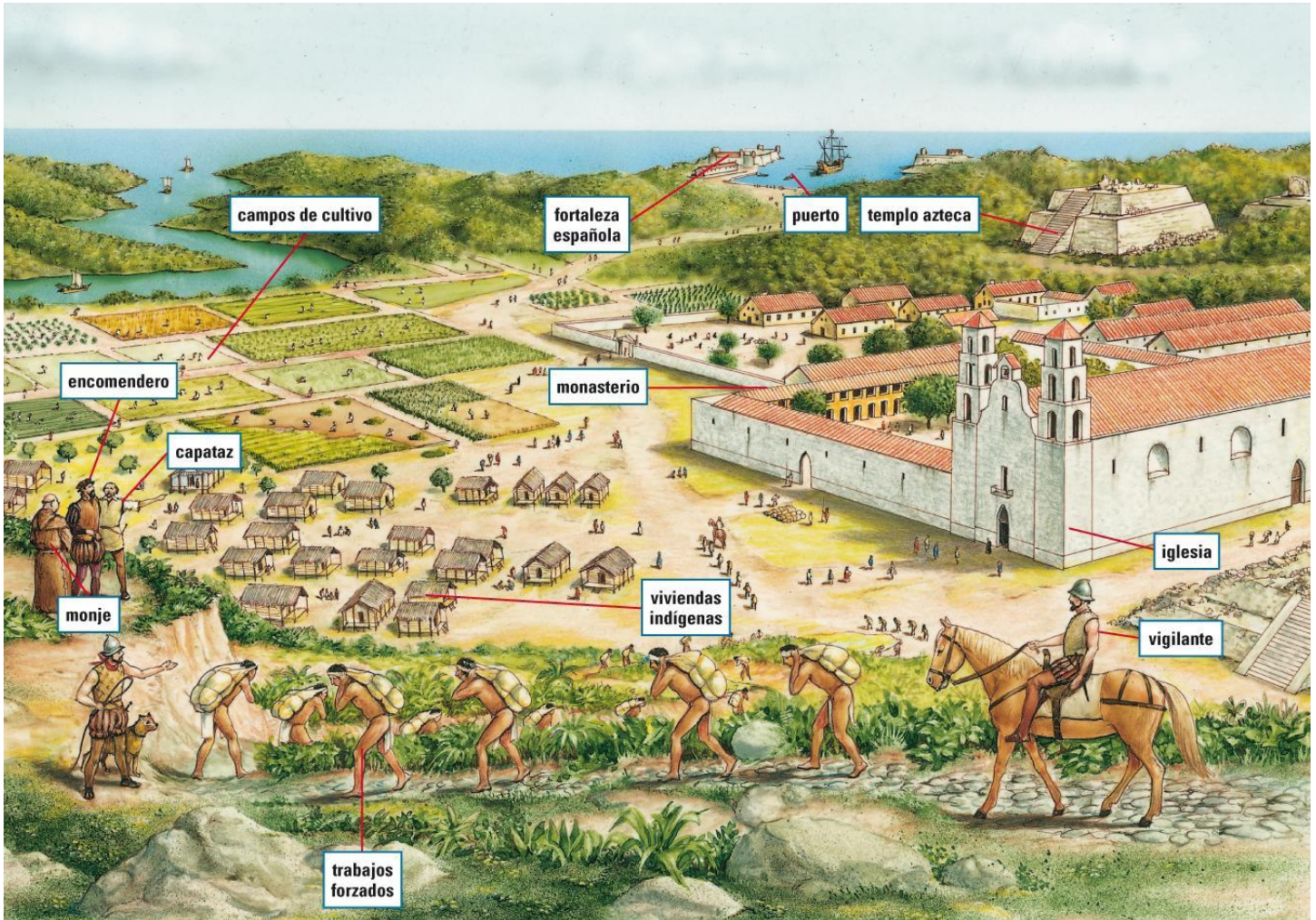
Spain believed that the purpose of colonies was to enrich the parent country. This belief was based on the principles of mercantilism. According to mercantilists, a country's economic strength depended on increasing its gold supply by exporting more goods than it imported.

Under mercantilism, colonies had two roles. They supplied the parent country with raw materials such as lumber, cotton, sugar and precious metals. They also served as a market where the parent country sold its manufactured goods, such as furniture clothing, and tools.

A colony could trade only with its parent country and was not allowed to manufacture finished goods. Thus, mercantilism made the colonies economically dependent on Spain for trade and manufactured goods. In return, the colonies received protection from the parent country.



ENCOMIENDA

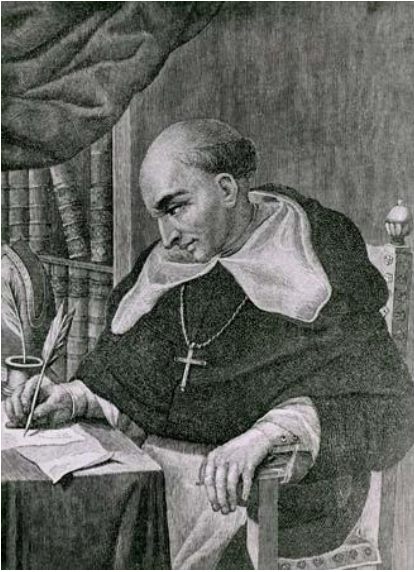


Encomienda, in colonial Spanish America, legal system by which the Spanish crown attempted to define the status of the Indian population in its American colonies.

As legally defined in 1503, an *encomienda* consisted of a grant by the crown to a conquistador, soldier, official, or others of a specified number of Indians living in a particular area. The receiver of the grant could exact tribute from the Indians in gold, in kind, or in labour and was required to protect them and instruct them in the Christian faith. The *encomienda* did not include a grant of land, but in practice the *encomenderos* gained control of the Indians' lands and failed to fulfil their obligations to the Indian population.

The *encomienda* was designed to meet the needs of the colonies' early mining economy. With the catastrophic decline in the Indian population and the replacement of mining activities by agriculture, the system lost its effectiveness and was gradually replaced by the hacienda system of landed estates. The *encomienda* was not officially abolished, however, until the late 18th century.

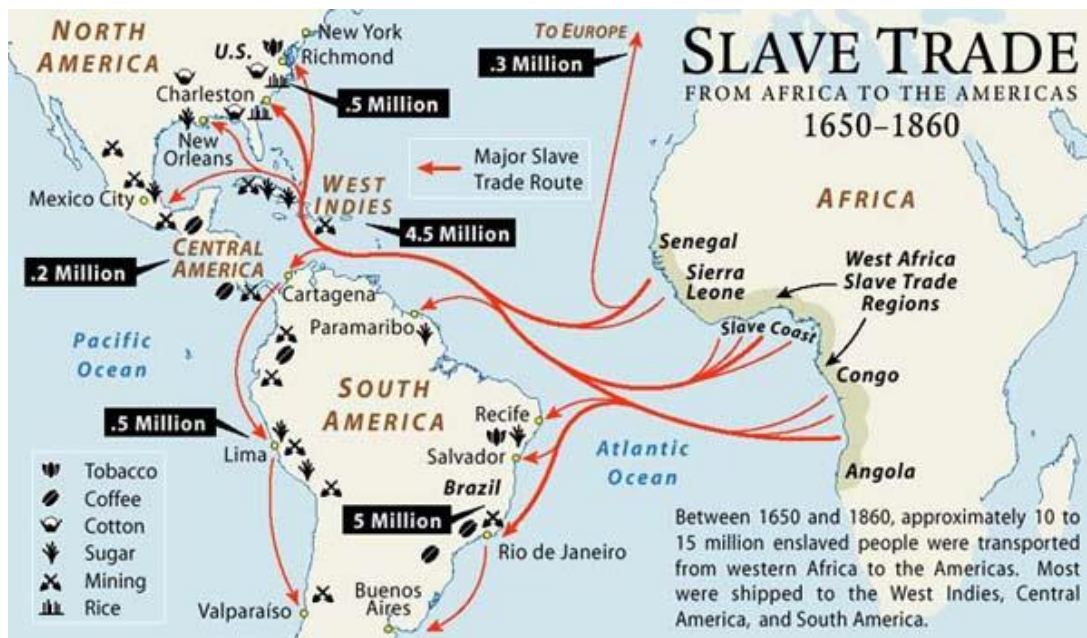
Bartolome de las Casas, NEW LAWS & the SLAVE TRADE



A few Spanish settlers spoke out against the mistreatment of the Indians. Bartolome de las Casas briefly held an encomienda in Cuba. His disgust at the cruel system led him to become a Dominican friar. He then went on to Spain to plead with the king to stop the misuse of the Indians. In detailed reports, he told of the horrors he had seen and the desperation of the Indians.

Reports from Las Casas caused a scandal in Spain. In 1542, the government passed the New Laws of the Indies. They reformed the encomienda system and banned the enslavement of Native Americans. By then, however, most Indians in the Caribbean had died from mistreatment and diseases brought by the Europeans. The death of so many Native Americans opened new lands for the Spanish to settle. By the late 1500s, many newcomers from Spain owned haciendas, or large plantations.

In his desire to protect the Indians, Las Casas gave the advice that he later regretted. He suggested that Spain use Africans instead of Indians to work the mines and plantations. Several factors encouraged the growth of the trade in the African slave trade. For one thing, the Spanish were already using Africans to work their plantations on the Canary Islands off the northwest coast of Africa. When the colonists in the Americas needed laborers for their haciendas (plantations), Europeans were ready to send Africans across the Atlantic. Spanish colonists gradually replaced enslaved Native Americans with enslaved Africans.

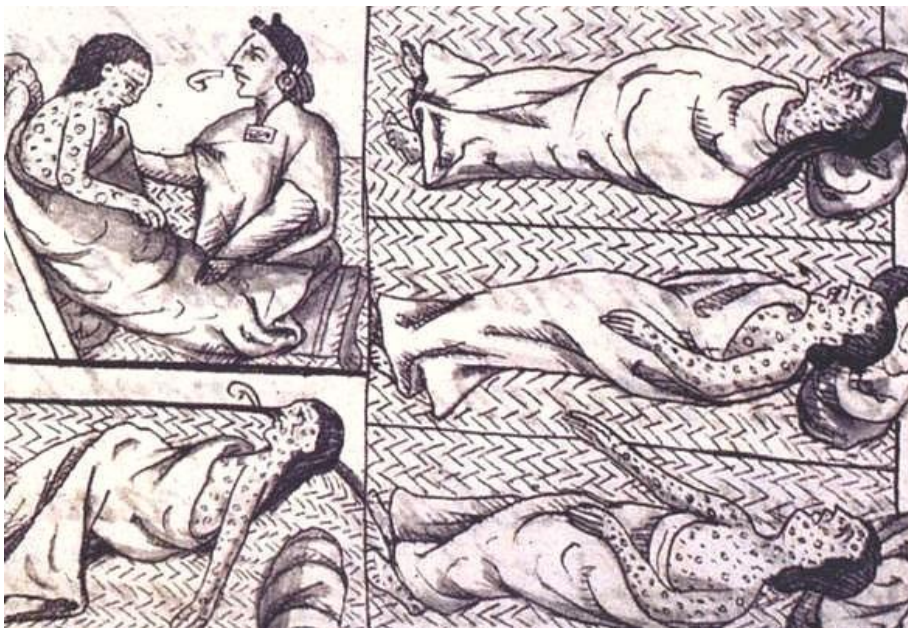


COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE



For all its tragedy and turmoil, the conquest of the Americas was also the meeting of two hemispheres. (Old World & New World)

In this so-called Columbian Exchange, Europe brought not only diseases and people but also cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, wheat, bananas, olives, sugar, and coffee. Meanwhile the Americas changed the

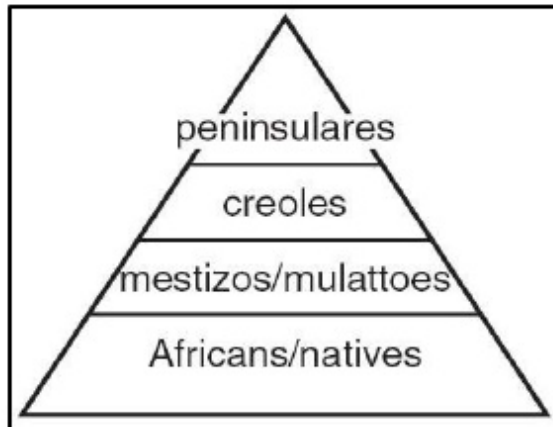


world by giving it potatoes, tomatoes, squash, corn (maize), hot peppers, and cacao (the source of chocolate)—and new plantations exported huge amounts of sugar back to Europe.

Of course, many of these exchanges brought more trouble, including soil erosion from overgrazing sheep in the Americas and diabetes and tooth decay from growing sugar consumption in Europe.

SOCIAL CLASSES IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA

Latin American social classes



Peninsulares were men born in Spain or Portugal who held highest offices and important military and political positions

Creoles were Spaniards born in the Latin American colonies who were officers in army, but not in government and controlled much of the land and business in the colonies. But they deeply resented power of the peninsulares.

Mestizos made up the majority of the society because it was mixed European and Indian. They worked as servant to the peninsulares and Creoles and as plantation overseers and farmhands.

Mulatto-European and African mixed ancestry.

The Native Americans/Africans were the lowest society group but also the largest. They were not known as citizens but did much labor.

RELIGION

Roman Catholicism and the Native Americans

The social system divided people along class lines. By contrast, the Roman Catholic Church was a unifying force. From the very beginning, the Church played a major role in shaping colonial life. The missionaries who came with the conquistadores set up churches in towns and cities. They also traveled to remote areas, where they built missions.

At first, missionaries tried to protect the Native Americans from harsh rule by the Spanish. But they also wanted Native Americans to give up their religious beliefs, which the missionaries believed were evil. For this reason, they destroyed Native American temples, statues, and sacred objects. In writing about his travels to Maya lands, the bishop Diego de Landa said, "We found a large number of books...and we burned them all."

The Church replaced Native American beliefs with those of European Christians. In the process, the Church absorbed some Native American customs. In Mexico City, Cuzco, and elsewhere, Christian churches were built on the ruins of Indian temples. In Mexico, Native American stonemasons decorated the new churches with both Christian figures and Aztec symbols. Offerings of maize and other local products filled the churches during religious festivals. The story of the Virgin of Guadalupe is an example of the blending of Native American and Christian traditions.

Roman Catholicism and Africans

The Church also spread Christianity among the Africans who had been brought to the Americas. To teach Christian beliefs, missionaries told stories about saints. Africans often saw similarities between their traditional gods and Catholic saints. Most Africans converted to Christianity, but many retained some elements of their traditional beliefs.

The Catholic Church's Power

Because it had close ties to the government, the Church enjoyed great power and wealth. It received huge grants of land from Spain and Portugal, as well as gifts from wealthy colonists. Like other landowners, Church officials taxed the Native Americans and others who worked the land. In time, it became the largest and richest property owner in Latin America.

The Church controlled many aspects of life including education, hospitals, and services to the poor. It set up schools and trained teachers. By the 1550s, it had built universities in Santo Domingo, Mexico City, and Lima. There, the sons of wealthy creoles and even some mestizos studied to become priests, doctors, and lawyers. The Church spent large sums of money on charity and on the many religious festivals that were celebrated throughout the year.

DIVIDING UP THE NEW WORLD

1. What was the Treaty of Tordesillas?
2. What conquistador took over Tenochtitlan? What country did he represent? What ancient civilization lived there?
3. According to the map, what country sent the most explorers to the Americas?

CONQUEST

4. Which explorer conquered the Aztecs in Mexico in 1519?
5. Name three factors why the Spaniards were able to defeat the Aztecs.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
6. What was the biggest reason why the Spaniards defeated the Aztecs?
7. What explorer conquered the Incas of Peru?

MERCANTILISM

8. Define mercantilism in your own words.
9. How did the parent/mother country maintain a favorable balance of trade?
10. What role did the colony play in the view of the parent country?

ENCOMIENDA

11. Define encomienda in your own words. (Make sure to discuss the details of the arrangement)
12. How could the encomenderos gain control of the Indians' lands?
13. Why did the encomienda system eventually fail and have to be replaced?

Bartolome de las Casas, NEW LAWS & the SLAVE TRADE

14. Who was Bartolome de las Casas? What did he fight for?
15. What advice did Las Casas give that he later regretted?

16. How did the Spanish colonies in the Americas led to an increase in the African slave trade?

COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

17. Define the "Columbian Exchange."

18. Identify three products that the Europeans brought to the Americas.

19. Identify three products that the Americas provided for the Europeans.

20. Why did people in Europe end up getting tooth decay?

SOCIAL CLASSES IN COLONIAL LATIN AMERICA

21. Who was the minority social class who held all of the political power?

22. Who comprised the majority of the society? What were their jobs?

23. Why would creoles resent the power of the peninsulares?

RELIGION

24. What did the missionaries do in the Americas?

25. How were the Native American traditions blended with the Catholic traditions?

26. Why did some Africans convert to Catholicism?

27. Identify 3 ways the Catholic Church has influenced Latin America.b