

EARLY LATIN AMERICA

AP World History



SPANIARDS AND PORTUGUESE: RECONQUISTA TO CONQUEST

Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile carried out a program of religious unification of Spain.

- 1492:
 - Last Muslim kingdom (Granada) fell to Catholic Spain.
 - Jews and Muslims ordered to leave Spain.

Isabella and Ferdinand use Columbus and his voyages Westward to expand Christian ideals.



CHRONOLOGY OF CONQUEST

- **Periods of Spanish and Portuguese conquest and colonization**
 - 1st: 1492-1570
 - Human destruction
 - European administration and economy were established
 - 2nd: 1570-1700
 - Minor alterations; Colonial institutions and societies became definite
 - 3rd: 1700's
 - Reform and revolts



CONQUISTADORS

- **1/5th of all treasure went to the crown**
 - Conquistadors shared remaining wealth.
- **Few were professional soldiers**
- **Saw themselves as new nobility over indigenous people (Native Americans)**
- **Horses, firearms, and steel weapons gave them an advantage**
- **Bureaucrats, merchants, colonists soon replaced the conquerors around 1570**



HERNÁN CORTÉS & MEXICO

Hernán Cortés (1519)

- Led 600 men to Mexico with Spanish weaponry
- Legend of Quetzalcóatl → Cortes?
 - Many within the Aztec Empire came to believe that Cortés was **Quetzalcoatl the god** who would return to overthrow the god Tezcatlipoca, who demanded human sacrifice.
- Spread smallpox
- Aided by:
 - Native American allies (groups who had been conquered by Aztecs)
 - **Malinche (Doña Marina)** who acted as an interpreter (click on name to read an article)
- Reached Tenochtitlán → captured and killed Moctezuma II
- 1521: Tenochtitlán burned to ground; Mexico City constructed
- Most of central Mexico became New Spain



SPANISH CONQUEST IN SOUTH AMERICA

**1535: Francisco Pizarro
conquered the Incan Empire
with 200 men**

- Spanish replaced Incan capital Cuzco with Lima

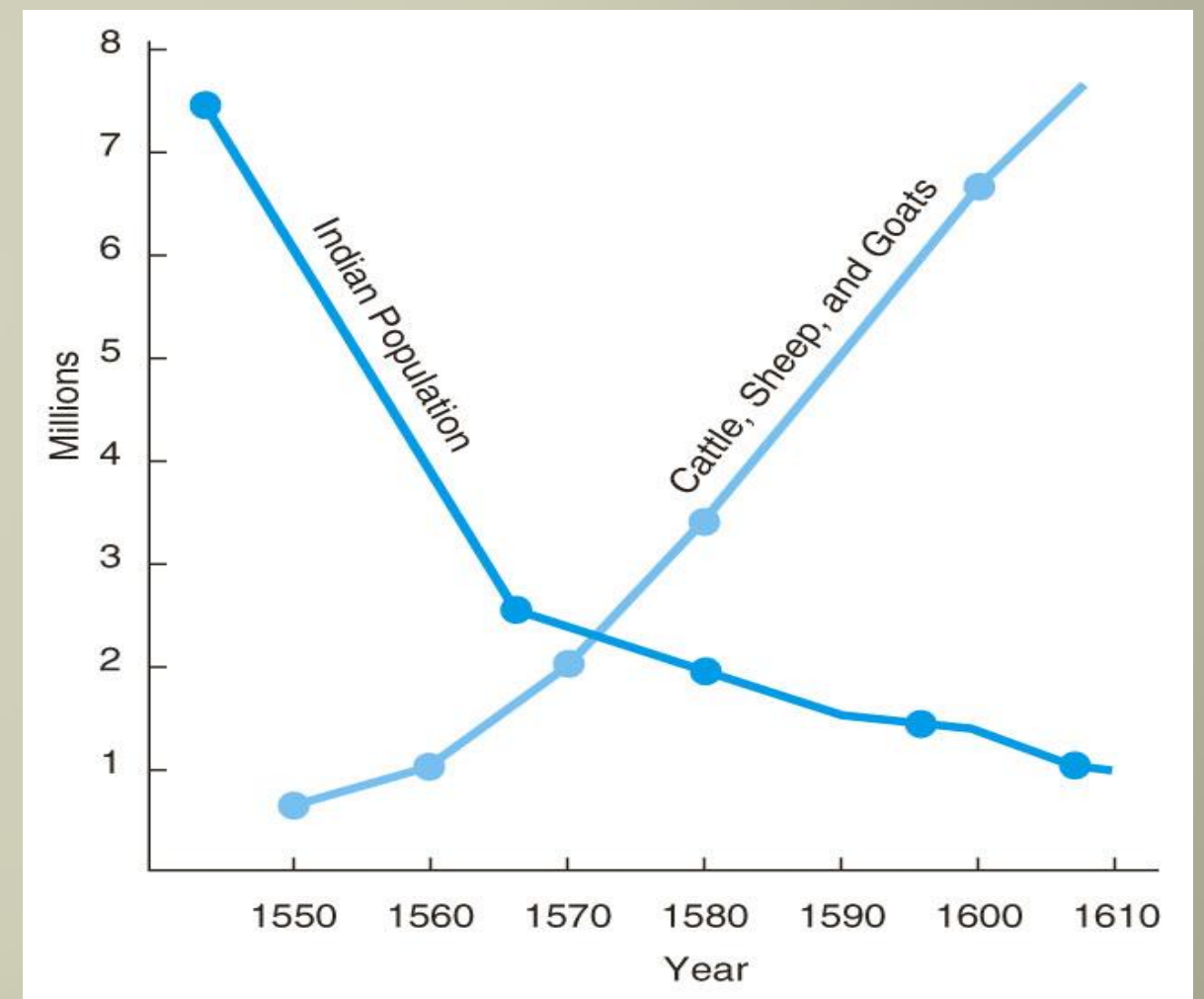
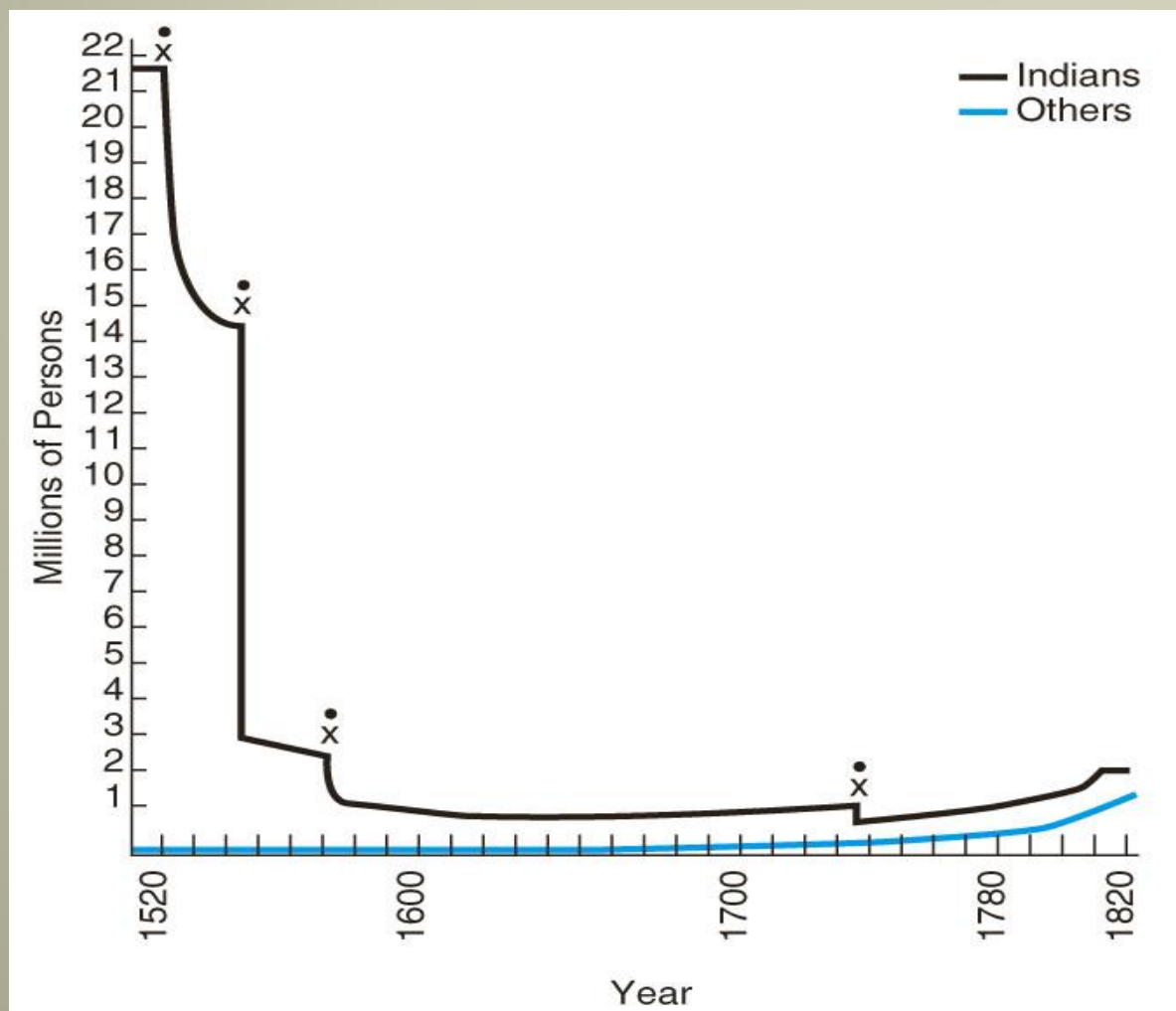
**1540: Francisco de Coronado
searched for seven cities of
gold in SW United States (as far
as Kansas)**

**By 1570: 192 Spanish cities
throughout the Americas**



DESTRUCTION OF NATIVE AMERICAN SOCIETIES

- **Debates about morality of conquest**
 - Father Bartolomé de las Casas
- **Indigenous populations suffered severe declines in population**
 - Slavery, mistreatment, conquest, disease (smallpox, measles)
- **Disruption of social and economic structures.**



Central Mexico went from 25 million people in 1519 to 2 million people in 1580.

A COMBINING OF SOCIETIES

- **Old & New groups in colonized lands:**
 - Native Americans— conquered, indigenous peoples
 - Europeans – conquerors and migrants
 - Africans – slaves
 - *Peninsulares*: Colonists born in Europe
 - *Creoles*: Colonists born in Americas (European parents)
- **Few European women lived in the New World → interracial marriages and sexual exploitation were common.**
 - *Mestizos*: European + indigenous (Native Americans)
 - *Mulattos*: European + African

*These terms are hurtful and not appropriate to use in modern context. The paintings of the castas are labeled using these terms.
- **Sociedad de Castas (society based on racial origins)**
 - Europeans (*Peninsulares* & *Creole*); Native Americans; Africans
 - The paintings “seek to document the inter-ethnic mixing occurring in New Spain among Europeans, indigenous peoples, Africans, and the existing mixed-race population.” – Khan Academy
 - <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/early-europe-and-colonial-americas/colonial-americas/a/spaniard-and-indian-produce-a-mestizo-attributed-to-juan-rodriguez>



STATE AND CHURCH IN NEW SPAIN

- **King ruled with bureaucracy (Council of the Indies)**
 - Issued laws; advised him on New World matters
- **Spain created two viceroyalties (authority in colony on behalf of King).**
 - Based in Mexico City + Lima
 - Divided into ten judicial divisions with courts
 - Created laws, applied laws, collected taxes, assigned work to Native Americans
- **Missionary work**
 - Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits
 - Establish churches, missions to spread Catholic faith
 - Profound influence on cultural and intellectual life in colonies



ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF SPANISH COLONIES

Encomienda System: grants from Spanish crown that gave natives to Europeans; Europeans were responsible for the natives and could use them as forced labor

- Father Bartolomé de las Casas protested mistreatment of natives in *encomienda* system; suggests Africans
- Restructured as *repartamiento* (granted a small salary to native workers)
 - Still created slavery-like conditions, especially in silver mines

Mit'a System: particular to Peru; mandatory forced labor with small salaries, usually in silver mines (originally used by the Inca)

AGRICULTURE AND MINING

Agriculture and mining were the basis of the Spanish colonial economy.

- 80% of the population lived and worked on the land.

Agriculture

- Haciendas (rural estates) became the basis of wealth and power → self-sufficient for basic goods
- Powered by *encomienda* and *mit'a* systems
- Sugar becomes major crop in Brazil

Mining

- Gold found in Caribbean, Columbia, Chile
- Silver discoveries made in Mexico and Peru between 1545 - 1565.



SILVER IN NEW SPAIN

Potosí (upper Peru, now Bolivia) was largest silver mine.

- 80% of Peruvian silver
- Required native forced labor

Spanish galleons carried silver to Spain

- Causes inflation in Spanish economy
- Pirates: a constant threat

Less than half of the silver mined actually stayed in Spain.

- Most was kept in new world
- Most of what went to Spain financed wars, paid off debt, was spent on luxury goods

GOLD IN BRAZIL

1695: Gold found in a town in Brazil called Minas Gerais.

- Gold rush began, later diamonds
- Stimulates economy and opens interior for settlement.
- Need for slaves → by 1775, ½ of Brazilian pop. were gold mining slaves

1735 – 1760: Brazilians mined 3 tons of gold a year

- Brazil was greatest source of gold in West.

Rio de Janeiro emerges as important port because it was closest to the gold mines.

- Received African slaves for mines.
- 1763: Capital of Brazilian colony

SPANISH WEAKNESS

Spain was weak: foreign wars, increasing debt, internal revolts

- Threatened by France, Protestant England and Holland.
- French took control of Spanish Hispaniola; English took Spanish Jamaica

War of Spanish Succession (1702-1713)

- Charles II (last Hapsburg) died without an heir.
 - French grand-nephew Philip of Anjou (Bourbon) named as heir in will
- HRE and England fearful that Spain and France will be united under one Bourbon monarch
- [Treaty of Utrecht, 1713](#) (Click on the link for a short video.)

Failure of Spanish mercantile and political systems.

- Increasing wealth in silver did not equate to increased development for Spain due to wars, theft by pirates, purchasing luxury goods
- Colonies (via haciendas) became self-sufficient



Charles II; last Hapsburg ruler of Spain

BOURBON REFORMS

New Spanish Bourbon monarchs launched Bourbon Reforms to strengthen the economy

Age of “Enlightened Despotism”

- Influenced by Enlightenment economic and political reforms
- Desire for revitalized Spain: strong centralized government and economy
- Remove groups that halt progress: Jesuits (allegiance to Rome; wealth) → expelled from Spanish Empire in 1767



New viceroyalties created to better provide administration and defense to populations of regions

- New Granada (1739) top image
- Rio de la Plata (1778) bottom image

Commerce was expanded (tobacco, coffee, hides, salted beef, cloth)

BRAZIL: THE FIRST PLANTATION COLONY

1500: Pedro Cabral found Brazil on his way to India

1532: Portugal officially settles Brazil

- Sugar plantations using Native American labor set up on Brazilian coast
- Sugar plantations required tremendous amounts of labor
 - Slaves arrive from Africa to support plantations
 - By 1700, Brazil had 150,000 slaves; half of Brazil's total population
 - 7,000 slaves imported a year

1549: Jesuit missionaries arrived

1695: Gold found in Minas Gerais



POMBAL REFORMS

Marquis of Pombal (1755-1776): prime minister of Portugal

- Bolster Portuguese economy by instituting economic reforms
 - Wanted to break flow of Portuguese gold to England; redirect it within Portuguese economy
 - Eliminate tax evasion
 - Introduce new crops
- Stopped slavery in Portugal, ensure steady stream of slaves to Brazil only

Policies were not fully effective

- Pro: Reduces Portugal's trade imbalance with England
- Con: Brazil still suffers because worldwide demand for its products is low as a result of new competition



REVOLTS

Late but rapid population growth in New World: 13 million by 1800

- Declining mortality rates
- Increasing fertility levels
- Increasing immigration from Europe
 - Opening of new areas for development
- Thriving slave trade

1780-1783: Tupac Amaru led Peruvian revolt against “abuses” of Spanish regime

- 70,000 Indians, Mestizos, and Creoles join
- Creoles fear real social upheaval might change their status; Creoles end their support

1781: Comunero Revolt

- Revolt in New Granada over government’s control of tobacco and liquor, rising prices, and high taxes
- Spanish army was defeated and the Viceroy fled
- Government concessions end rebellion

