

GII: Spanish Conquests

“The Encounter”

- Spain & Portugal were the first two countries to colonize the Americas
- colonization was an early form of imperialism

The Conquistadors

- Conquistadors or Spanish conquerors, traveled to the New World looking for gold and wealth
- The conquistadors had superior weapons and skills that made conquest easy
- Hernán Cortés conquered the Aztecs
- Francisco Pizarro conquered the Inca
- Bartolome de Las Casas defended the Indians and wanted to spread Christianity
- A result of the encounter, the Europeans brought diseases and killed millions of Natives

Encomienda System

- Started in the 1500's, during the Age of Exploration
- Europeans believe they were superior
- The Europeans demanded tribute and labor from the Natives

New Social Classes

- Peninsulares: born in Spain. Jobs in gov't and Church
- Creoles: American born Spanish. Owned ranches, plantations and mines.
- Mestizos: Natives and European descent
- Mulattoes: African and European descent.
- Native Americans and Africans were at the bottom

Sample Question

1. Which nation had the most influence on the colonization of Latin America in the 1500s?

- (1) Spain
- (2) France
- (3) England
- (4) Netherlands

2. During the 15th century, which two European countries began sea voyages of exploration?

- (1) Germany and Italy
- (2) Portugal and Spain
- (3) England and France
- (4) Russia and the Netherlands

- Smallpox outbreak spreads throughout Mexico.
- Spanish and Portuguese are introduced to chocolate, peanuts, tomatoes, and corn.
- Cortés brings Aztec gold and silver treasures to Spain.

3. Which situation is illustrated in these statements?

- (1) empathy of Europeans for Native American Indian civilizations
- (2) triangular trade and its effects on agrarian economies
- (3) the relatively high costs of colonialism
- (4) the impact of contact between different peoples

4. A direct result of the conquest of Tenochtitlán by Hernán Cortés in 1521 was the

- (1) expulsion of Jews and Muslims from Spain
- (2) establishment of Portuguese trade routes around Africa
- (3) fall of the Aztec Empire
- (4) conquest of the Kush Kingdom

5. The expeditions of Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro resulted in the
- (1) destruction of the Aztec and Inca empires
 - (2) capture of Brazil by Portugal
 - (3) colonization of North America by Portugal
 - (4) exploration of the Philippines and East Indies
6. Which social class controlled most of the political, economic, and social power in colonial Latin America?
- (1) peninsulares
 - (2) mestizos
 - (3) creoles
 - (4) native people
7. The purpose of the Encomienda system in Latin America was to
- (1) control overpopulation in urban centers
 - (2) convert native peoples to Protestantism
 - (3) obtain labor and taxes from the native peoples in the Spanish colonies
 - (4) introduce political ideas into the colonies gradually
8. After contact with Europeans in the 1500s, millions of native peoples in the Americas died as a result of
- (1) new foods, which the native peoples could not digest
 - (2) religious persecution resulting from the Spanish Inquisition
 - (3) new diseases to which the native peoples had no natural immunity
 - (4) slavery and the terrible conditions on their sea journey to Europe
9. Which statement about the Encomienda system during the 16th and 17th centuries is accurate?
- (1) Aztec and Inca civilizations prospered.
 - (2) Life expectancy among Native American populations increased.
 - (3) Spanish influence declined in its colonies.
 - (4) Many Native Americans were forced to labor on large estates.
10. The Encomienda system in Latin America was a direct result of the
- (1) Crusades
 - (2) Age of Exploration
 - (3) Reformation
 - (4) Age of Reason