

Name _____ Hour _____

AP US History

Crash Course Video #1: The Black Legend, Native Americans and Spaniards.

Background: This video presents an overview of how Native Americans lived in present day U.S. before Europeans arrived. It also describes some key challenges historians have with understanding this time period and the problems with making generalizations about Native Americans. The Black Legend refers to the 'dark history' of the interaction between the Spaniards and Native Americans.

Part I. Vocabulary/Terms: Use any reputable website to find info on the following.

- a) Pre-Colombian
- b) Encomienda system
- c) Pueblo Revolt
- d) Matrilineal

Part II. Questions to answer as you watch. You may need to watch more than one, or stop the video at times.

1. What were the Native Americans like before Europeans arrived? Or, how were they NOT like other civilizations?
2. What DID the Natives of North America have?
3. Approximately how many Indians lived in North America? How many were killed and how?
4. For what reasons does John Green give for why it is PROBLEMATIC to refer to the Indians as 'primitive'?
5. For what reason does John Green give for why it is also problematic to make generalizations about Indians?
6. How did Indians view property/land ownership?
7. Give 2 reasons why the Spaniards came to America?
8. What is the SIGNIFICANCE (not what was it, but what did it lead to/importance) of the Pueblo Revolt?

9. Why is it difficult to truly know the Spaniards treated Indians and if the Black Legend is completely true?

Part III. Mystery Document/Primary Source

A History of the Indies by Bartolome De Las Casas, 1528

The Indians [of Hispaniola] were totally deprived of their freedom and were put in the harshest, fiercest, most horrible servitude and captivity which no one who has not seen it can understand. Even beasts enjoy more freedom when they are allowed to graze in the fields. But our Spaniards gave no such opportunity to Indians and truly considered them perpetual slaves, since the Indians had not the free will to dispose of their persons but instead were disposed of according to Spanish greed and cruelty, not as men in captivity but as beasts tied to a rope to prevent free movement. When they were allowed to go home, they often found it deserted and had no other recourse than to go out into the woods to find food and to die. When they fell ill, which was very frequently because they are a delicate people unaccustomed to such work, the Spaniards did not believe them and pitilessly called them lazy dogs and kicked and beat them; and when illness was apparent they sent them home as useless. . . . They would go then, falling into the first stream and dying there in desperation; others would hold on longer but very few ever made it home. I sometimes came upon dead bodies on my way, and upon others who were gasping and moaning in their death agony, repeating "Hungry, hungry." And this was the freedom, the good treatment and the Christianity the Indians received.

10. In what way(s) does this writing support the story of the Black Legend?
11. Why did those that survived find their homes deserted?
12. By the mid-1500s, the Spanish Crown passed laws that required Spaniards to treat Indians better and to gradually end the encomienda system and slavery. To what extent do you believe Casas is responsible for this? Should he be considered a hero?