Week 14: Chapter 19: Part 1: Terms

**Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabela of Castile** - They lived on the Iberian Peninsula, and were the Spanish monarchy. In 1492, when the Granada War ended and religious unity was established, they supported Christopher Columbus’ project of reaching the East Indies by sailing westward around the globe.

**Encomiendas** – Native workers. Along with large estates, they provided the framework for relations based on European economic dominance in the Americas.

**Bartolomé de las Casas** - Lived from 1484 to 1566. He was a conquistador turned priest, and tried to end the abuse of Indians. He argued that Indians were rational people who had never done harm to Christians. He believed that they had many admirable customs and accomplishments.

**Hernán Cortés** - In 1519 Cortes led an expedition of 600 men to the coast of Mexico. He established a base at Veracruz. He fought towns subject to the Aztec Empire. He was able to kill the Aztec emperor Montezuma II. They were able to capture Tenochtitlan by allying with traditional enemies of the Aztecs. A combination of alliances, disease, starvation, and battle brought the city down in 1521.

**Montezuma II** - Ruler of the Aztec Empire. However, Cortes captured and killed him to conquer the empire.

**New Spain** - By 1535 most of central Mexico, with its network of towns and its dense, agricultural populations, had been brought under Spanish control as the kingdom of New Spain.

**Francisco Pizarro** - In 1535 he led his men to the conquest of the Inca Empire, which was already weakened by a long civil war. He used guile and audacity with fewer than 200 Spaniards and many Indian allies to bring down the Incan Empire.

**Francisco Vácquez de Coronado** - From 1540 to 1542, he searched for mythical cities of gold and penetrated what is now southwestern United States.

**Pedro de Valdivia** – He conquered the tenacious Araucanian Indians of central Chile and set up the city of Santiago in 1541.

**mita** - Forced labor in Peru that mobilized thousands of Indians to work in the mines and on other projects.

**Potosí** – Located in Upper Peru, this was the largest mine. It produced about 80 percent of all the Peruvian silver. In the early 17th century, more than 160,000 people lived and worked in the town.

**Huancavelica** - After 1580, silver mining depended on a process of amalgamation with mercury.
to extract the silver from the ore-bearing rock. The Spanish discovery of a mountain of mercury at Huancavelica in Peru aided American silver production.

**haciendas** - Family-owned rural estates, which produced grains, grapes, and livestock. They produced primarily for consumers in America, and became the basis of wealth and power for the local aristocracy in many regions.

**Casa de la Contratación** - The Board of Trade. They were located in Seville and they registered ships and passengers, kept charts, collected duties, and in general controlled the Indies trade. All trade was funneled through Seville so that only Spaniards could trade with America.

**consulado** - The Casa de la Contratación worked with the merchant guild, or consulado to control goods shipped to American and handled much of the silver received in return. They kept tight control over the trade and were able to keep prices in the colonies high.

**Galleons** - They had heavily armed ships called galleons to carry the silver belonging to the crown. The Spanish discouraged pirates and foreign intervention by using a convoy of Spanish galleons. They left Spain twice a year and met in Havana, Cuba to sail back home together.

**Treaty of Tordesillas** - Treaty between Castile and Portugal. It clarified the spheres of influence and right of possession of the two kingdoms by drawing a hypothetical north-south line around the globe and reserving for Portugal the newly discovered land and path to India to the east of the line. All of the land to the west of land belonged to Castile.

**Recopilación** – Codified the laws into the basis for government in the colonies.

**Council of the Indies** - The king ruled through the Council of the Indies in Spain, which issued the laws and advised him.

**letrados** - The Spanish empire was staffed to a large extent by letrados, who were university-trained lawyers from Spain. They were also the legislative and administrative authority.

**viceroyalties** - Within the Indies, Spain created two viceroyalties in the 16th century. One was based in Mexico and the other was based in Lima. Viceroy, high-ranking nobles who were direct representatives of the king, wielded broad military, legislative, and judicial powers.

**audiencia** - Viceroyalties were divided into ten judicial divisions controlled by superior courts, or audiencias, that were staffed by professional royal magistrates who helped to make law as well as apply it.

**Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz** – She was an author, poet, musician, and social thinker. She was welcomed at the court of the viceroy in Mexico City, even though she was a woman. She gave up on secular matters for purely spiritual ones.

**Pedro Alvares Cabral** – The first official Portuguese landfall took place in 1500 when he led an
expedition to India. They stopped briefly on the Brazilian shore. The crown did not pay for military action until 1532 when the French attempted to seize their dyewood.

**Paulistas** - Throughout the 17th century, hardy backwoodsmen from Sao Paulo had been exploring the interior, capturing Indians, and searching for precious metals. They claimed much of the interior for Portugal and found wealth. In 1695, gold strikes were made in the mountainous interior in a region that came to be called Minas Gerais (General Mines).

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**Rio de Janeiro** - Rio de Janeiro, the port closest to the mines, grew in size and importance. It became capital of the colony in 1763.

**sociedad de castas** – Societal order based on racial origins, in which Europeans or whites were at the top, black slaves or Indians were at the bottom, and the many kinds of mixes filled the intermediate categories.

**peninsulares** - Those born in Spain. They were considered the top of Colonial society.

**creoles** – Those born in the New World. Creoles thought of themselves as loyal American Spainards, but the crown believed that their status was suspect because there were so many mestizos around that they could have an Indian ancestor.

**amigos del país** – In Spain and its colonies, small clubs and associations, called amigos del pais, or “friends of the country” met in many cities to discuss and plan all kinds of reform.

**War of the Spanish Succession** - In 1701, Charles II died without an heir. Many European nations claimed the right to the throne, and it was decided that Philip of Anjou, a Bourbon and a relative of the King of France, was the successor. After the war, which took place from 1702 to 1713, the treaty of Utrecht recognized that a branch of the Bourbon family as rulers of Spain. The price was some commercial concessions that allowed French merchants to operate in Seville and permitted England to trade slaves in Spanish America.

**Charles III** – He reigned from 1759 to 1788. The Spanish Bourbon monarchs were moved by economic nationalism and a desire for strong centralized government to institute economic, administrative, and military reforms in Spain and its empire. They wanted to make the government more effective, more powerful, and better able to direct the economy.

**commercio libre** - In 1778, this policy opened trade to many ports in Spain and the Indies. Trade was still restricted to Spaniards or to ships sailing under Spanish license. It stimulated trade and made contraband less attractive.

**José de Galvez** – He spent six years in Mexico before he became the Minister of the Indies and one of the big players in the reform. He revealed the worst abuses of graft and corruption, which
implicated the local magistrates and the Creole American land owners and aristocracy. He moved to eliminate the Creoles from the upper bureaucracy of the colonies.

**Marquis of Pombal** - He ruled from 1755 to 1776 as the Portuguese prime minister. He brutally suppressed any group or institution that stood in the way of royal power and his programs. He expelled the Jesuits from the Portuguese Empire in 1759.

**Comunero Revolt** – In New Granada, popular complaints against the government’s control of tobacco and liquor consumption, and rising prices as well as new taxes, led to the widespread revolt in 1781. A royal army was defeated, the viceroy fled from Bogota, and a rebel army almost took the capital. Tensions between the various racial and social groups, and concessions by the government, brought an end to the rebellion.

**Tupac Amaru** - He was also known as Jose Gabriel Condorcanquai. He led more than 70,000 Indians, mestizos and a few Creoles against the bad government. For almost three years the viceroyalty was thrown into turmoil. He was brutally executed but the rebellion continued until 1783. The Creoles ended it because they feared that a real social upheaval might take place if they upset the political balance.

**Week 14: Chapter 19: Part 2: Questions**

1. **What aspects of Iberian society were transferred to the New World?**

   Spain and Portugal were known for being far more urban than the remainder of Western Europe and transferred that way of life to the New World. The colonists attempted to make themselves over in the mold of nobility from their respective countries – establishing large plantations in the new lands, creating a new colonial elite and instituting the Natives as serfs. Patriarchal society from the Old World also carried over to the new world and church (Catholic) and state (professional bureaucracy) were all similar if not identical to the institutions in the Iberian Peninsula.

2. **What are the three phases of the conquest and colonization of the Spanish and Portuguese in the Americas?**

   There were three phases of the creation of Latin America. In the first, from 1492 to 1570, colonial administrations were established. Between 1570 and 1700, colonial society and economy reached maturity. By 1600, the Indian empires of Latin America were destroyed and African slavery was introduced allowing Mexico and Peru to become the focal points of Spanish settlement.

3. **Describe the model for American colonization that was established in the Caribbean.**

   The Spanish settled the lands, creating villages and haciendas. The labor force was almost exclusively Indian and the agricultural production was for consumption by the colonies. Very few items were exported. Churches were established, as were schools and universities established initially to train priest and later branching out offering educational opportunities for
all. Spain established viceroys in Mexico and Peru who exercised both military and administrative authority over their dominions. Each viceroyalty was subdivided into judicial regions called audiencias. At the local level, magistrates in towns and villages enforced decrees, acted as judges, and collected taxes.

4. Describe how the Spanish and others exploited the Indians in the Americas. How did the native cultures react to the Europeans and were they able to resist or not? Explain.

With the introduction of disease and forceful takeovers, Native populations suffered a catastrophic decline in population as a result of the European conquest of the Americas. With the lower numbers, the Spanish opted to move remaining native populations into fewer towns giving them the ability to seize the now abandoned communal farmland. Being fewer in number also made it difficult for survivors to maintain traditional social and economic patterns as well as to effectively stage a resistance. Those that were considered “nobility” in the native cultures were used to foster the Spanish message, collecting taxes and imposing the labor requirements. In an effort to escape such requirements, Indians began to leave villages and seek private employment during the 1800’s. Despite European intervention, some Indian culture was retained at the local level.

5. Reading the reading on page 432-433 and answer the questions at the end of the reading.

Why and in what ways was the Columbian exchange a significant case of global contact?

10-15 million Africans and 5 million Europeans settled in the Americas, impacts included what people ate, how they dressed and even as far as how they died (introduction of diseases)

Was western Europe the chief beneficiary of the exchange?

Not necessarily. In many cases the Europeans had a larger impact on the Americas than vice versa. Benefits to the new world included the introduction of horses, sheep, cattle, chickens, goats and pigs. Cattle thrived in the new environment – in one instance 100 cattle abandoned in 1587 became 100,000 within 20 years. New foods became staples to the American diets such as wheat, olive oil, wine, melons, onions, grapes, and sugar cane.

6. Describe the role of the Catholic Church in the creation of the Spanish and Portuguese settlements/empires in central and South America.

The Catholic Church was among the first to make a foothold into the new colonies. Missionaries came to establish settlements and convert the natives. Later this transitioned into full-fledged churches sponsored by the state. Schools and universities were established in order to train priests, though later allowed entrance to all. The establishment of an office of Inquisition controlled orthodoxy and morality within the colonies.

7. Discuss the nature of the Spanish system of government in the American colonies.
The Spanish government was linked to the Church. Church and State joined forces to form an ideological and political framework. Spain established viceroys in Mexico and Peru who exercised both military and administrative authority over their dominions. Each viceroyalty was subdivided into judicial regions called audiencias. At the local level, magistrates in towns and villages enforced decrees, acted as judges, and collected taxes.

(see question 3)

8. How did the discovery of gold and diamonds change the economic organization of Brazil?

In 1695, explorers in the interior of Brazil discovered gold in the region of Minas Gerais. Thus came at a fortunate time as the Brazilian economy was declining due to increased costs associated with slavery and the new challengers to Brazil’s sugar dominance in the world market. However, the discovery set off a gold rush of immigrants from Portugal. Establishing administration and police, Portugal rushed to protect its interest in the mines amidst the increasing numbers of gold seekers. Mining stimulated the development of the interior, but at a cost to the native populations. Rio de Janeiro replaced Salvador as the capital of Brazil – due to its proximity to the mines. With profits from gold paying for manufactured and luxury goods, Brazil neglected to develop its own industrial capacity leaving them to become economically dependent upon Britain, especially when the mines slowed in production in the 1750’s.

9. Describe the social hierarchy of the American colonies.

Social hierarchies became complicated by intermarriage between the Indians and the Spaniards which created a new social group = the mestizos who were regarded as socially superior to the Indians and more inclined to follow European patterns. Social status was dependent upon racial origins. Whites were the elite, mestizos (or those of mixed origin) were below and natives & blacks were at the bottom of the social ladder. There were aspects of social mobility but overall, being white was still the most obvious qualification for elite status. Even among whites, some distinctions were observed between those born in Europe, the peninsulares, and those born in the Americas, Creoles with the Creoles rapidly developed a sense of identity separate from the European white population.

10. Describe the 18th-century reforms in Portuguese and Spanish colonies and how successful were they or not? Explain.

Spain’s ruling by the Bourbon family in Europe influenced reforms in the colonies. Those that opposed reform (such as the Jesuits) were suppressed in order to move forward with ruling via Enlightenment ideals. New viceroyalties were introduced and when instances of corruption in the colonies were exposed, those colonies, many were Creoles, were removed from government. The existing colonial government was replaced by the French system of intendants, which allowed for improved tax collection and better economic development at the cost of offending the colonial elite. The establishment of monopolies was perhaps the greatest strategy in for economic development in the colonies. Militias were organized.

11. Describe the economy of the Spanish and Portuguese colonies. What was the main goal of the colonizers and why? What happened to the wealth of these colonies and why?
The main goal was to establish colonies from which a large and quick profit could be made. They attempted to recreate society in the new colonies – however established themselves as the new elite within that society. An emphasis on generating profits superseded the creation of a formal infrastructure. All of this led to economic dependence upon others as well as their raw material supply. Once the gold and the sugar became less viable (one due to over mining, the other due to increasing production in other parts of the world) the wealth disappeared within the colonies.