THE SPANISH EMPIRE IN THE AMERICAS

SWBAT: Explain chief features of the Spanish empire in America
Do Now

Match the vocabulary terms with their significance in your study so far.
The Spanish Empire

- Carried gold & silver east to Spain, and west to the Philippines and China
- Claims in New World included most populated and richest in resources
- “Empire of towns” - Mexico City, Lima
Governing Spanish America

- King → Council of Indies → Viceroy of America
- Catholic Church - authority on faith, morals & treatment of Indians

The convent of San Augustin. A mission center established at Yuriria, Mexico in 1550
Colonists in Spanish America

- Spanish forced Indians to work in gold & silver mines, and on large-scale farms (*haciendas*)
- Main agricultural crops were still corn, beans, & squash

- **NOT ALLOWED:**
  - non-Spaniards
  - non-Christians (Jews & Moors)
Colonists and Indians

- **Peninsulares** - European-born
- **Criollos** - European ancestry, born in colonies

Spanish monarchy ordered wives to join husbands in America & demanded that single men marry.

→ pop. Of Spanish women was low
→ intermixing of colonial & Indian peoples began
Why would the Spanish government approve these marriages?
- bring Christianity to the natives!
Colonists and Indians

- *Mestizo*- person of mixed origin - made up a large part of urban pop. in Spanish America

→ “Hybrid Culture”: Spanish, Indian, African, with a single faith, language & gov. system

![Social Classes in Spanish Colonies](image-url)

Source: John Osborne et al., Global Studies, N & N Publishing (adapted)
A Spaniard and a mestiza produce a castizo
The child of an Indian and a mestiza is a coyote
The child of an Indian man and African woman is a chino.
“What allowed one nation to claim possession of land that belonged to someone else?” – Hugo Grotius (Dutch legal thinker)

- superior culture
- expectations
- superior weaponry
- spread beliefs to heathens (non-Christians)
In 1494, Spain and Portugal disputed the lands of the new world, so Spain went to the Pope, and he divided the land of South America for them. Spain got the vast majority, the west, and Portugal got the east.
Spreading Faith

- The Pope required Spain & Portugal to spread Catholicism among the natives.
- Missionary element reinforced during Protestant Reformation.
- Belief in superiority of Catholicism:
  - “true faith”
  - save Indians from heathenism
  - transform into loyal subjects
  - prevent them from Protestant influence.
“Souls to be saved and a labor force to be organized”

Goal: bring true “freedom” to Indians

Enslaving natives = a means of liberating them from savagery
After reading the excerpts from Sepúlveda and Las Casas, respond to the questions that follow.
Noble Savages & The Black Legend

SWBAT: Explain the Myth of the Noble Savage & the Encomienda Labor System
Do Now

- Review the two excerpts you completed for homework.
  - Argued Indians were completely human & morally equal to Europeans.
  - Enslaving natives was not justified.
  - Argued natives were less than human.
  - Natives benefitted from serving the Spaniards in the *encomienda* system.
Bartolomé de las Casas

- Spanish priest
- Owned land & slaves
- Became an advocate for treatment of Indians → Opposed views of most Europeans
- Hand in ending the *encomienda* system
King gave land grants & natives to Spaniards (had to educate them in Spanish & Christianity)
Natives were forced to pay tribute, farm & mine
Fruits of their labor went to their master
Restraints on Spanish Policy

- Pope Paul III's ban on Indian enslavement
- Spanish reforms of colonist–Indian relations
  - Abolition of Indian enslavement
  - Abolition of *encomienda* system (slavery)
  - Implementation of *repartimiento* (aka *Mita*, or *Cuatequil*) system
    - temporary, required work & paid wages
Noble Savage – phrase used to described the European belief that Native Americans were:

- Untouched by corruption & evils of civilization
- Natural life is glorified
- Innocent of Europe’s worst characteristics
Europeans simultaneously praised the simplicity of the indigenous way of life, but pitied the Native Americans for their “backwardness”

Native Americans are savage in regards to technology, but beautiful & wise when it comes to nature

“I am as free as Nature first made man, Ere the base laws of servitude began, When wild in woods the noble savage ran”

~The Conquest of Granada by John Dryden
Native Americans experienced
- War
- Complex social & political structures
  - Hereditary succession
- Widespread trade networks

Ellingson, an anthropologist, debunks the myth
- Claims Europeans only saw savages
The Black Legend – image of Spain as a uniquely brutal & exploitative colonizer, demonizing the Spanish Empire

- Phrase coined in 1914 by a Spanish historian to describe anti-Spanish writings & illustrations
The English propagated the legend to justify their colonization of the New World.

- Portrayed themselves as altruistic, while Spanish were depicted as cruel & greedy.
For this question, address all three parts
A. Briefly explain the system depicted in the illustration
B. Briefly explain how the scene impacted the Atlantic World
C. Cite one specific event and briefly explain the development of the labor system mentioned in part A