Chapter 19: Early Latin America

- Latin America enters the world trade network. Iberians mix with natives. A new culture forms and influences future civilizations. Use of slaves for mining and plantation work.

Spaniards and Portuguese: From Reconquest to Conquest
- Iberians were invaded in 8th century. By 1492, the last Muslim kingdom is out (Granada). Castile exiles the Jews.

I. Iberian Society and Tradition
   a. Iberian society transfers to American society. Heavily urban, slaves, patriarchal ideas.
   b. Politics of Iberian Penn.: Bureaucracy of lawyers and judges, religion and Catholic Church.
   c. Merchants had experience trading slaves for plantation work on other Atlantic islands.

II. The Chronology of Conquest
   a. Periods of Conquest
      i. 1: Main lines of administration and economy set out (1492-1570)
      ii. 2: Colonial institutions take a definite form (-1700)
      iii. 3: Reform and reorganization that resulted in dissent and revolt (through 1700s).
   b. During 1st period, many new peoples come under European control. Natives destroyed or transformed. Areas into Atlantic trading economy.

III. The Caribbean Crucible
   b. Establish New World cities similar to Iberian ones with American conditions. Grid like patterns with central plaza for church and govt.
   c. Spain sets up admin. institutions w/ laws that incorporate Spanish and American experiences. Church joins; builds cathedrals and universities.
   d. Women and slaves come. Shift from conquest to settlement (sugar farms replace gold searches).
   e. Many indigenous killed. Some search for social justice (Bartolome de las Casas).
   f. By the 1520s-30s, the elements of the Latin American colonial system were set into place.

IV. The Paths of Conquest
   a. Conquest was based on individual initiative with govt. permission. Aimed at South America and Mexico.
   b. Cortes into Mexico, with help of Indian allies, takes down Aztecs. Creation of New Spain in central Mexico.
   c. Pizarro defeats Incan Empire and build capital at Lima. Most of Peru under Spanish control by 1540.
   d. Coronado into southwest U.S. Valdivia into Chile and founded Santiago. By 1570, there were 192 Spanish settlements in the Americas.

V. The Conquerors
   a. Agreements between leaders and government that sponsors them. Must split the spoils with the government. Also split between each person who attended the journey.
   b. Men from all aspects of life for Christian glory or personal gain, saw themselves as new nobility over the natives. Horses, weapons, diseases, native political disorganization, and ruthless leadership can be attributed to their success.
   c. By 1570, conquest coming to a close and colonization set in.
VI. Conquest and Morality
   a. Is conquest moral? Some argue that Indians aren’t fully human and were born to serve Europeans and that conversion was necessary.
   b. 1550, conquest ceased to hear both sides. Bartolome de las Casas argues in favor of Indians. “Conversion must be peaceful.”
   c. Decision to moderate worst abuses came too late to help most natives.

Destruction and Transformation of indigenous Societies
   • Huge demographic blows were suffered by natives as Spanish continue to settle.

I. Exploitation of the Natives
   a. Some native institutions stay. Native nobles serve as middlemen.
   b. Non-war related enslavement was prohibited by mid 1500s. Government awards encomiendas instead (tax and labor). From 1500s, the crown modifies system to prevent an American nobility from forming.
   c. State takes Indians for state work. Natives flee and work for Spanish landowners and urban employers. The Native culture remained resilient to the new ways of life that were imposed on them.

Colonial Economies and Governments
   • Despite having an 80% farming/agrarian society, mining (silver especially) brought the New World into the trade economy and brought wealth to Spain.

I. The Silver Heart of Empire
   a. Wealthy urban centers develop as silver mines (Potosi) are opened and worked on by Natives as well as the mita (first coercive, then paid). The findings of mercury deposits were vital to silver extraction via European methods of mining.
   b. Individuals own mining companies but 1/5 of the spoils go to the crown (who has monopoly on mercury). Mining is the center of the economy.

II. Haciendas and Villages
   a. Spanish farms develop in areas where population is thinning. These farms produce various foods to be used domestically. Became basis of wealth for the local aristocracy.

III. Industry and Commerce
   a. America becomes self-sufficient. Looks to Europe for luxury items.
   b. Silver is still commercial heart. Trade reserved for Spaniards and funneled through Cadiz and Seville. Consulado has monopoly over American (silver) trade.
   c. Convoys of galleons were set up to transfer the silver to Spain. Also used for Chinese trade / Philippines to Mexico.
   d. New wealth contributes to overall inflation in Europe as well as Spanish debt due to unwise spending. Majority of money comes from taxes still.

IV. Ruling an Empire: State and Church
   a. Power in the crown with papal grant. Treaty of Tordesillas: imaginary north/south line drawn. Spain gets that to the west, Portugal, the east. Some did not accept this new idea.
   b. King rules from Spain via viceroyalties and Council of Indies. Viceroyalties divided into 10 subdivisions of magistrates. Lower, local tax collectors and labor distributors were accused of corruption.
   c. Bureaucratic system based on a juridical core of lawyers who had both legislative and administrative authority.
   d. Clergy converts and stands up for the rights of the Natives and study their culture. In core areas, the Church prevails due to state appointed church officials who tend to support state policies.
   e. The church profoundly influenced colonial cultural and intellectual life through architecture, printing, schools, and universities. The Inquisition controlled morality and orthodoxy.
Brazil: The First Plantation Colony
- Portugueses into Brazil by 1500, exploit dyewood forests. 1532, Portuguese nobles given capitanicies (land grants) to colonize. Towns founded with sugar plantations; use of Natives, then African slaves.
- Capital established at El Salvador. Indian resistance broken. Port cities serve the growing numbers of sugar plantations worked by African slaves.

I. Sugar and Slavery
a. Production of sugar requires large capital and labor \(\rightarrow\) slaves. Brazil is world’s leading sugar producer.

b. Brazil is the first plantation colony \(\rightarrow\) other Europeans copy. Social Hierarchy: White planters, mixed (artisans, free workers), slaves.

c. Bureaucracy integrates Brazil into Portugal’s imperial system. Regional governors respond to Council in Lisbon. Missionaries run ranches, schools, mills, and other Church institutions.

d. Brazil has more ties with its mother country. No universities or printing press to stimulate intellectual life. Brazil becomes the predominant Portuguese colony in 17th century.

II. Brazil’s Gold Age
a. Conflicts in Brazil between 1580-1652 result in hard times for the colony. Meanwhile, France, Dutch, and English set up sugar colonies in Caribbean. Lowered sugar prices, rising slave prices ruin Brazilian sugar economy.

b. Paulistas (exploring backwoodsmen) discover gold at Minas Gerais in 1695.

c. People rush to settle. Slaves work mines. Government imposes heavy taxes on production that peaks in 1735-60. Brazil is greatest source of gold in the western world.

d. Discovery of gold/diamonds result in interior settlement, destroyed Native populations, and weak coastal agriculture. The government managed to reinvigorate coastal agriculture and control the slave trade, while the mines stimulated new ventures in farming and ranching. Rio de Janeiro becomes major port and new capital in 1763.

e. Social hierarchy based on race continued. Portugal buys everything and doesn’t learn how to manufacture itself. Detrimental in the long run.

Multiracial Societies
- Indians, Africans, and Europeans all came together to form multicultural societies with a hierarchy based on color, status, and occupation.

I. The Society of Castas
a. Miscegenation was key to societal development. European women are rare, Indian and African women are exploited. Mestizos are result. Similar processes occurred elsewhere. Mestizos and Mulattos represented a significant portion of the new world population.

b. The Sociedad de Castas, based on racial origins created social distinctions. Restrictions were imposed on mixed peoples but social mobility was still possible.

c. Distinctions between Creoles (American born whites) and Peninsulares (European born whites). Creoles dominate local economies and develop strong sense of identity \(\rightarrow\) independence movements.

d. Patriarchal societies. Marriages are arranged. Upper class women confined to house. Lower class women participate in local economies.
The 18th Century Reforms

- Changes in economy and population result in a call for reform. Intellectual growth. Spain and Portugal revive but with results that lead to their falls.

I. The Shifting Balance of Politics and Trade
   a. Spain begins to decline. Britain, France, and Holland were threats. During 27th century, they took Spanish islands in the Caribbean and set up sugar plantations.
   b. Mercantile and Political system fails. Local aristocrats take control in Americas. Corruption in government, silver stops flowing.

II. The Bourbon Reforms
   a. Charles III enacts reforms. Navy renovated, Jesuits expelled, taxation reformed, French bureaucrats introduced, ports open to less restricting trade with Spanish merchants. Church remains an ally of the regime.
   b. New world reforms; new viceroyalties formed in Rio de la Plata and New Granada. José de Galvez → Creoles removed from upper bureaucratic positions. Intendancy system introduced.
   c. Spanish loses during the 7 years’ war resulted in military reform. Troops sent to New World and Militias led by Creoles were formed. Frontiers expanded and California was settled.
   e. Open trade damaged local industry. Mining was revived with new technologies and veins. Dissatisfaction among elites became common with these new reforms.

III. Pombal and Brazil
   b. Local reformers work to rid Brazil of corruption. Rio de Janeiro becomes capital. Slavery abolished in Portugal but not in Brazil.
   c. Indians removed from missionary control and intermarrying was encouraged (to grow population). Reforms did not do much. Colony still based on slavery.
   d. Reforms set the stage for Brazilian independence.

IV. Reforms, Reactions, and Revolts
   a. By mid 1700s, a boom in population and productivity occurred through the end of the 18th century.
   c. The Tupac Amaru, a more serious revolt, occurs among the Peruvian Indians.
   d. Brazil manages to escape serious disturbances.
   e. General dissent among the colonies due to reforms was present, but social hierarchies and ethnic divisions acted as a barrier to cooperation.