Chapter 19: Early Latin America

Spaniards and Portuguese: Reconquest to Conquest

- Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile carried out a program of unification of Spain.
- 1492 - Last Muslim kingdom (Granada) fell in a predominantly Catholic Spain.
- 1492 - All Jews ordered to leave Spain (200,000 Jews may have left in Reconquista - The movement to remove the Muslims from the Iberian Peninsula in the 11th-15th Centuries)
- Isabella and Ferdinand use Columbus for navigation

Iberian Society and Tradition

- Most Spanish and Portuguese lived in urban towns and villages.
- Encomiendas: Spanish crown grants Europeans specific number of natives for whom they are responsible for; extract tribute and labor in return
- A professional bureaucracy + Church comprised Iberian politics.
- Portugal establishes trading ports in Africa; in New World, establishes extensive estates
Chronology of Conquest

Three periods of Spanish and Portuguese conquest and colonization

1st: 1492-1570
- administration and economy were established

2nd: 1570-1700
- colonial institutions and societies became definite

3rd: 1700's
- reform and reorganization

The Caribbean

- 1493: Colony of Hispaniola established
- Puerto Rico (1509), Cuba (1511), Panama (1539)
- Spanish used indigenous populations (encomiendas) for labor.
- Administration in Spanish colonies
  - governorship, treasury office, royal court of appeals
- Gold hunting turned to the establishment of sugar plantations
Spanish Conquest: Mexico

- Two areas of Spanish conquest: Mexico and South America
- Spanish expeditions: generally 50-500 men each
- Hernan Cortes (1519)
  - Led 600 men to Mexico
  - Reached Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan
  - Replaced by Mexico City
  - Captured and killed king Moctezuma
- Most of central Mexico became New Spain

Spanish Conquest: South America

- 1532: Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incan Empire with 200 men
- Spanish replaced the capital Cuzco with Lima
- 1540: Francisco Vásquez de Coronado searched for cities of gold in the southwestern United States (as far as Kansas)
- By 1570, there were 192 Spanish cities and towns throughout the Americas

The Conquerors

- 1/5th of all treasure went to the crown
- The rest of the men shared remaining wealth.
- Few were professional soldiers
- Saw themselves as new nobility over indigenous people
- Horses, firearms, and steel weapons gave them an advantage
- Bureaucrats, merchants, colonists soon replaced the conquerors around 1570
Destruction and Transformation of American Indian Societies

1. Debates about morality of conquest
2. All indigenous populations suffered severe declines in population (sometimes, groups are eliminated)
3. Slavery, mistreatment, conquest, disease (smallpox, measles)
4. Central Mexico went from 25 million people in 1519 to 2 million people in 1580.
5. Disruption of social and economic structures.

Population Decline in New Spain

[Graph showing population decline over time]
Indian Exploitation

- Traditional Indian nobility remained in place.
- Served as middlemen between tax and labor demands of new rulers.
- Labor and taxation were imposed instead of slavery in Spanish America.
- End encomiendas.
- Mita or "forced labor" (Peru).
- Many Native Americans adapted and modified Spanish institutions; kept indigenous practices as well.

Colonial Economies and Governments

- Agriculture and mining were the basis of the Spanish colonial economy.
- 80% of the population lived and worked on the land.
- Mining was the heart of the post-conquest colonial economy.
- Gold found in Caribbean, Columbia, and Chile.
- Silver shaped Spain's wealth in America, more than gold.
- Silver discoveries made in Mexico and Peru between 1545 and 1565.
- Potosi (upper Peru) was the largest silver mine.
- 80% of all Peruvian silver.
- 160,000 workers.

Colonial Economies and Governments, cont.

- Haciendas (rural estates) became the basis of wealth and power → self-sufficient for basic goods.
- Luxury goods from Europe on galleons (large armed ships).
- Less than half of the silver mined actually stayed in Spain.
- Most was kept in new world.
- Most of what went to Spain went to wars, repayment of debt.
State and Church

- King ruled through Council of the Indies, which issued laws and advised him.
- Spain created two viceregalities (authority in colony on behalf of sovereign).
- Based in Mexico City, Lima.
- Each viceregalty was divided into ten judicial divisions with courts.
- Magistrates create laws, applied laws, collected taxes, assigned work to Indians.
- Missionary work.
- Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits.
- Profound influence on cultural and intellectual life in colonies.

Brazil: The First Plantation Colony

- 1500- Pedro Álvares Cabral found Brazil on his way to India.
- 1532- Portugal settles Brazil.
- 1549- Portugal created a royal capital at Salvador and Jesuit missionaries arrived.
- Many sugar plantations were set up on Brazilian coast.
- By 1630, Brazilian colonies had 100,000 inhabitants, 30,000 Europeans and 15,000 African slaves.

Sugar and Slavery

- Sugar plantations required tremendous amounts of labor.
- By 1700, Brazil had 150,000 slaves; half of Brazil's total population.
- 7,000 slaves imported a year.
- White planter families.
- Mixed origins; poor whites, freed blacks, free Indians.
- Slaves.
- Bureaucratic structure in Brazil with missionary orders, much like New Spain.
Age of Gold
- The Brazilian sugar economy soon had competition with British, French and Dutch sugar plantations in the Caribbean.
- 1695- Gold found in the interior of Brazil called Minas Gerais.
- By 1775, half of the population were slaves who mined for gold.
- Between 1735 and 1760, 3 tons of gold a year were mined and Brazil was greatest source of gold in West.
- Rio de Janeiro became an important port because it was closest to the gold mines.
- Became capital of the colony in 1763.

Multiracial Societies
- Three new groups in colonized lands:
  - Europeans - conquerors and migrants
  - Indians - conquered, indigenous peoples
  - Africans - slaves
- Few European women lived in the New World so mixed marriages and sexual exploitation were common.
  - Mestizos: people of mixed races (European + indigenous)
- Sociedad of castas (based on racial origins)
  - Europeans, Mestizos and mulattoes (European + African), Indians, slaves
  - Peninsulares and Creoles

The 18th Century Reforms
- Spain was weak because of foreign wars, increasing debt and internal revolts.
- Threatened by powerful France, and wealthy Protestant England and Holland
- French took control of western Hispaniola (Haiti); English took Jamaica
- Failure of Spanish mercantile and political systems
- War of the Spanish Succession (1702-1713)
- Charles II died without an heir
- Philip of Anjou, from Bourbon family, was named to the throne
**Bourbon Reforms**

- Spanish Bourbon monarchs launched a series of reforms to strengthen the state and the economy.
- Age of "Enlightened Despotism": enlightened rule, desire for revived Spain, strong centralized government and economy.
- Jesuits expelled from Spain in 1767; too powerful and wealthy.
- New viceroyalties created:
  - New Granada (1739)
  - Rio de la Plata (1776)
- Commerce was expanded (hides, salted beef, cloth).

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**Pombal and Brazil**

- Marquis of Pombal (1755-1776) was prime minister of Portugal.
- Expelled Jesuits in 1759 because of their allegiance to Rome.
- Wanted to break flow of Portuguese gold to England; redirect it within Portuguese economy.
- Fiscal reforms, eliminate tax evasion, introduce new crops.
- Stopped slavery in Portugal, ensured steady stream of slaves to Brazil only.
- Policies were not fully effective; although he reduces Portugal's trade imbalance with England, Brazil suffers because worldwide demand for its products is low.

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**Reforms, Reactions, Revolts**

- Rapid population growth in the New World - 13 million by 1800.
- 1781: Comunero Revolt.
- 1781: Revolt in New Granada.
- Royal army was defeated and viceroy fled.
- Concession by government ended the revolt.
- Tupac Amaru led a revolt in Peru (1780) against "abuses" of Spanish regime.
- 70,000 rebels.
- Revolt defeated in 1783, Amaru killed.