Life in Colonial Latin America and the Prelude to Independence
1550-1800
Where are we?

At this point you should be familiar with:

- The conquest of the Indigenous people by the Spanish
- Castas
- The role that religion played in colonization
Where are we going?

- We will discuss the ways that culture in Latin America evolved and eventually paved the way for Latin American independence movements.

- We will eventually see the almost complete elimination of indigenous people in Latin America

- We will be covering more on this later in the week.
Today’s Key Points

- New Spain was a colony that was built in order to increase the wealth of Spain.

- There was a lack of distribution in the amount of wealth that was created in the New World.
Key Terms and Ideas

- Colonial Society
- Economics in Latin America
- *Encomienda System*
- Role of Religion in development of culture
Colonial Society

- By the beginning of the 17th century (1600’s) more than 200,000 Spaniards migrated to New Spain.

- There were people of every economic class that came to the New World
  - EXCEPT THE PEASANT CLASS
Colonial Society Continued

- There was a duplication of Spanish society in the New World.

- Who would represent the new peasant class?
Economics

How did New Spain become the most valuable colony in the world?
Encomienda System

- Economic organization system that granted land and all of the people living on that land to a SPANIARD by the king.

- Why would this be a problem?

- This land grant would be hereditary

- Why would this be a problem?
Encomienda System Continued

- Natives would be required to work the land for the encomendero.

- In return, the encomendero would protect the natives and teach them Christianity.

- Do we see any problems with this deal?
Mining

- Between 1546 and 1548 vast silver deposits were uncovered in Zacatecas, which swiftly grew to be the country's third largest city.
La Mina

Mining Areas

Mining and Industry:
- Oil and gas
- Coal and lignite
- Silver (Ag)
- Lead and zinc (Pb)
- Iron (Fe)
- Sulfur (S)
- Textiles
- Cement
- Chemicals
- Iron and steel
- Motor vehicles
- Petroleum refinery
Mining

- Mining would be very profitable for the Spanish Empire, making them the wealthiest country in the world.

- Mexico provided most of Europe with its source of raw minerals.

- Eventually, continued mining would lead to problems.
Religion

- We have already seen the ways in which religion helped colonize the native people.

- What were some of the ways in which this happened?
Religion

- The church had a larger presence and influence than the state government had in the area. **REMEMBER THIS!!**

- Culture and ideas were spread by missionaries that traveled north throughout the colony.
Native Women and Religion

- Because of the lack of Spanish women in the Americas, many Spanish men took native women in as mistresses.

- **Native women were MORE important to the spread of Christianity than native men.**

- Why?
Problems for Spain and Colonization

- Much of the land that was claimed by Spain was uninhabited by Spanish people in the New World.

- In areas of Spanish settlement, the elite usually ruled in a harsh and brutal manner.
Temporary Solutions for Spain

- Spain depended on religion for the settlement of land in the north

- **Junipero Serra** was a Catholic missionary who agreed to develop a series of missions in unsettled lands
Temporary Solutions for Spain

- Development of **Missions** in *Alta California*
  - Where is this?

- A **Mission** is an area of settlement by a religious group in hopes of converting the native population

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Video on missions  
Mission in San Francisco
Early Los Angeles
Consequences of Mission Development

- Spread of literacy throughout the New World (more on this later)

- By the end of the 18th Century over half of New Spain's land and close to two thirds of the money in circulation had fallen into the hands of the Church.
  - How is this significant?
Problems for Spain

- Inflation
- War
- Poor Leadership
Bell Ringer

- Write 2-3 sentences explaining what you know about Mexican Independence
Independence in Latin America
Main Ideas

- Revolutionary ideas took hold in Latin America as colonies fought for independence from Europe.

- Colonies throughout Latin America identified with their mestizo identities in order to create new ideas of freedom.

- The Enlightenment and the American and French revolutions inspired some in Latin America to seek greater freedom.
Key Terms

- Issues in Europe
- Enlightenment
- Toussaint L’Ouverture
- Haiti
- Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen
Issues in Europe

- Issues such as WAR and BANKRUPTCY in Europe destabilized colonial rule throughout the world

Who is this man? Why is he important?
After Napoleon came to power shortly after the French revolution, there began a series of wars known as the **Napoleonic Wars**

These wars consumed all of Europe

What does this map show?
The enlightenment was an age of reason where many of our modern ideas of freedom came from.

“Life liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”
Haiti
Haitian Revolution (1791-1804)

- Haiti was the first Latin American territory to break ties with Europe
- Sugar exports and slavery made Haiti one of France’s richest possessions
- French Revolution had dramatic effect on island

- Haiti under French rule from 1625-1804
Toussaint L’Ouverture

- I was born a slave, but nature gave me the soul of a free man

- He was a former slave who led the revolution in Haiti.

- What is important about this?
Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen

- French document from the Revolution that was inspiration for Latin American independence

- Stated that the rights of man are universal and that all men are born free.
Significance of Haitian Revolution

- The Haitian Revolution showed that uprisings from the people could bring independence to the people.
Other Areas Fighting for Independence

- New Spain (Mexico)
- Brazil
- La Plata (Argentina)
- New Granada (Colombia and Other countries in South America)
Independence in Mexico

1810-1821
Main Ideas

- The Mexican War of Independence was led by Mexican-born Spaniards, Mestizos, and indigenous people.

- The success of the independence came after the Mexican-born Spaniards joined in the fight against the Spaniards.
The Colonial Class System

- Peninsulares
- Castizas
- Mestizos
- Mulattos
- Native Indians
- Black Slaves
Stirrings of Independence

- Spaniards and direct descendents of Spaniards were usually the ones who gained positions of authority in the colonies.