
CHAPTER 10

Voyages of Discovery



Prince Henry the Navigator

- * Sponsored Portuguese Exploration of African Coast:
- * Focus = gold trade
 - * Muslim monopoly for centuries
- * By end of 15th Century...
- * Gold from Guinea reaching Europe via ships



Portuguese Exploration

- * Thus, African Gold comes from Portuguese shipping
- * NOT from Arabic Caravans
- * Lisbon & Antwerp become rich trade centers
- * Portuguese, Spanish, & Flemish get Rich



Antwerp the New Trade Hub

- * Not only shippers getting rich...
- * German bankers get rich too:
- * Fuggers & Weslers underwrite voyages
- * Thus, gain great wealth
- * Risk only \$\$\$, not their necks!!!



Portuguese Exploration

- * Rush to Find Direct Route Round Africa
- * To Source of Spices:
 - * Nutmeg, Mace, Cloves, Cinnamon, Pepper, etc.
 - * In ports of South India
 - * From "Spice Islands"



Why Spices?

- * **European Diet:**

- * Cabbage, turnips, onions, bread, & "gruel"
- * Seasonal meat with NO refrigeration
- * Spices make it palatable



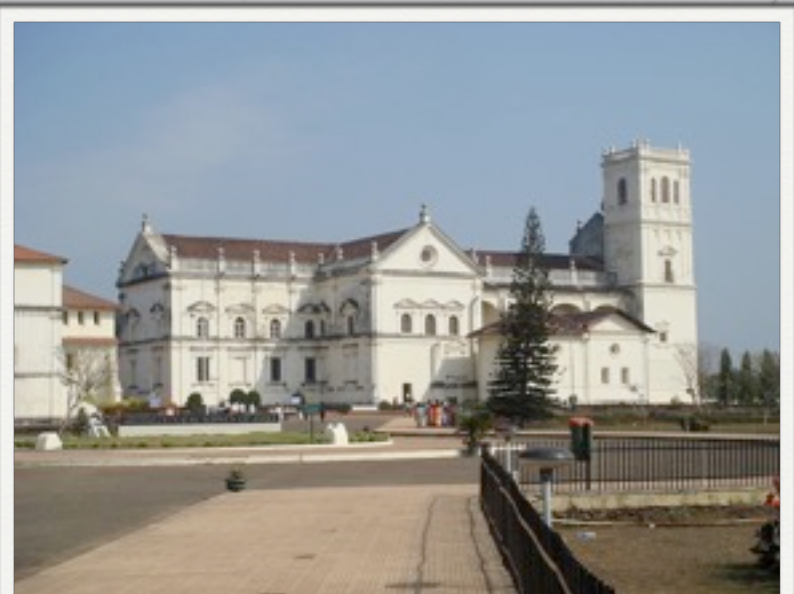
Portuguese Exploration

- * Bartholomeu Dias
d. 1500:
- * Rounded Cape of Good Hope
1487
- * Vasco da Gama d. 1524:
- * Reached India in 1498
- * Brought home 60x value
spent on voyage!



Portuguese Exploration

- * Portuguese establish colonies along Malabar Coast of India:
- * Goa & Calcutta
- * Challenged both Arabs & Venetians for control of spice trade
- * Portuguese = Rich for Years!



Portuguese Church in Goa

Spanish Exploration

- * Spanish, too, want direct route
- * But, Portuguese have forts from Senegal to Sao Tomé
- * From Angola to Cape Town
- * From Mozambique to Goa
- * So African route impassable!
- * So, Go West Young Man!



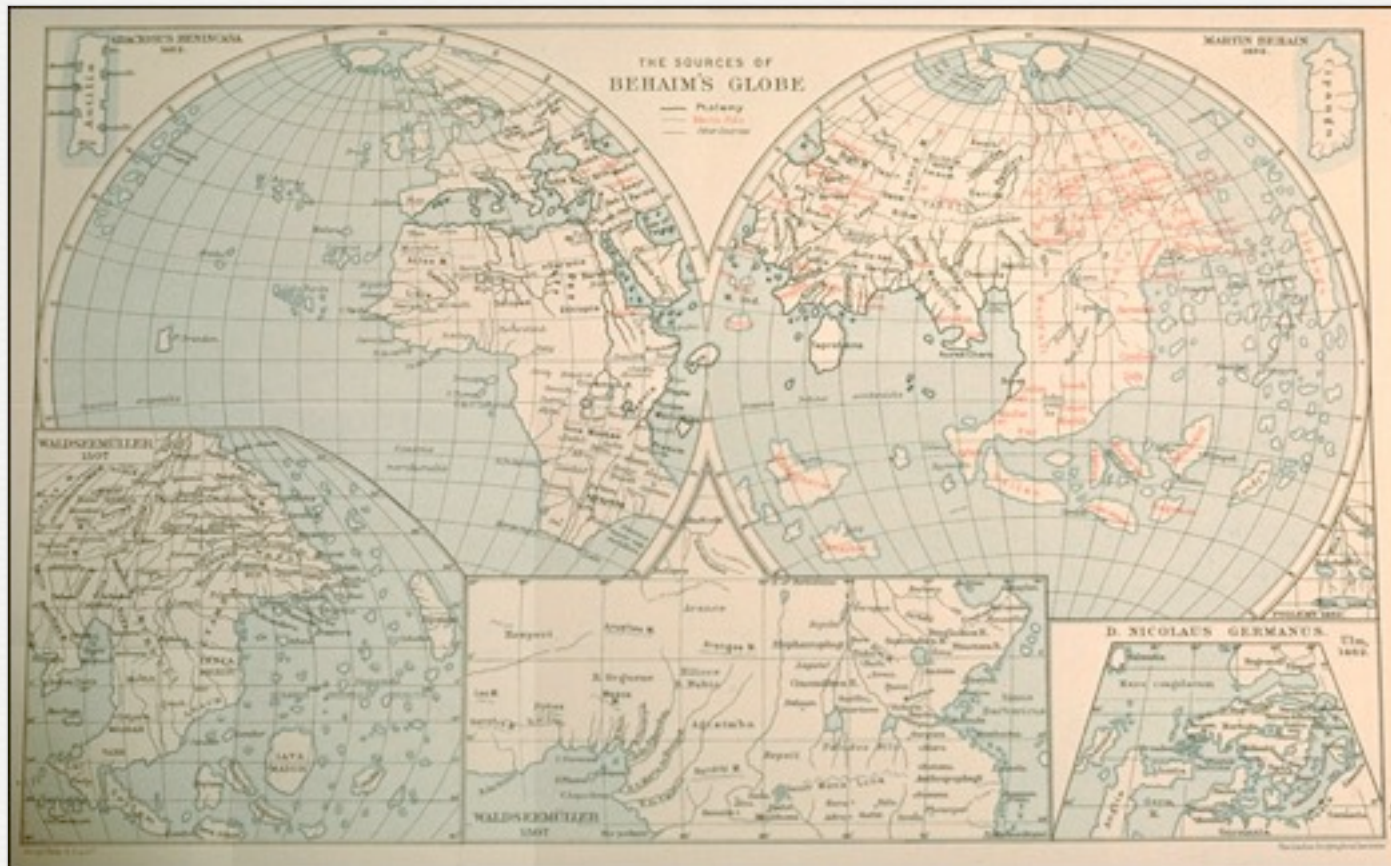
Spanish Exploration

- * Christopher Columbus 1451–1506

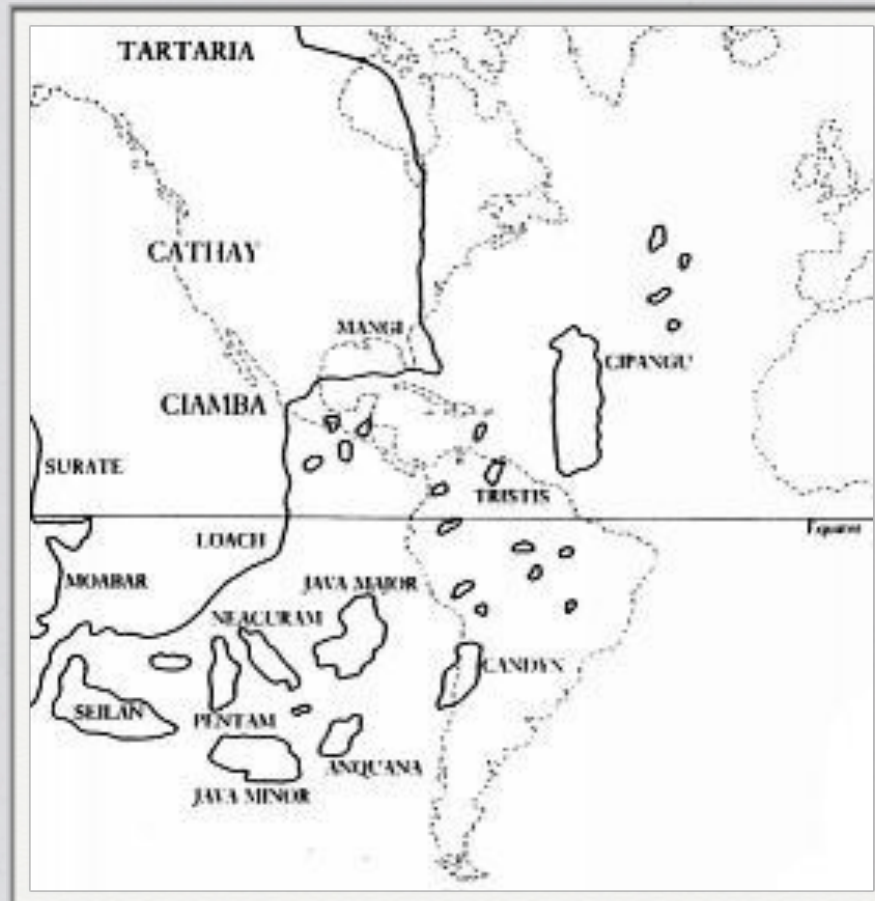
- * Born in Genoa, Italy
- * Learned Navigation
- * Much of his History is Wrapped in Legend
- * Somehow gained access to Maps of the World...



Behaim Map 1492



Behaim Detail

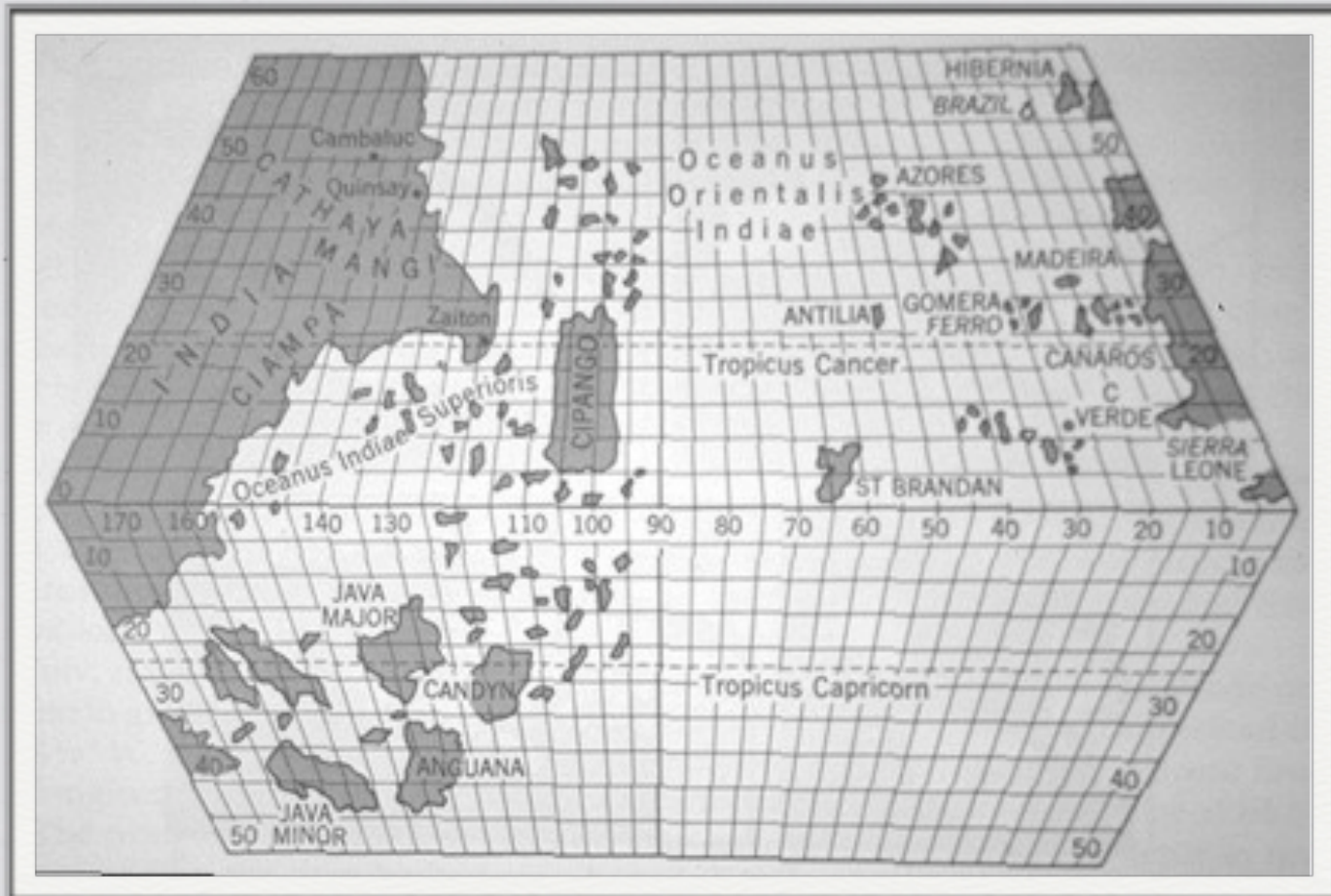


Columbus' First Voyage

- * Convinced that Japan lay on same latitude as Canary Islands
- * Sail due West & maintain latitude, simple
- * Astrolabe & Compass
- * But, Maps are Wrong!



Toscanelli Map 1474



October 12, 1492

- * 33 days after leaving the Canary Islands off Africa
- * Just past midnight, sailor on the Pinta sights San Salvador
- * Watlings Island
- * East Bahamas
- * Convinced its Cipangu/Japan



Columbus' Mistake

- * Convinced Cipangu = same latitude as Canary Island
- * Convinced Cipangu close to Cathay
- * China = Cathay
 - * Silks & Porcelain
 - * Mistake based on Marco Polo & Behaim Map!



"Americans" Pay for his Mistake

- * Natives on "San Salvador"
= Taino People= Speak
Arawak
- * So, Spanish Sailors met
by Naked Natives
- * "They Never Say No,"
Marveled Columbus
- * They'll Make Great
Slaves!



A Conquered World

- * Columbus called the Taino People "Indians"
- * Still thought he was in Asia till his 3rd voyage!!!



Mesoamerica

- * Central America
 - * Central Mexico to Yucatán Peninsula & Guatemala
 - * Olmecs ca. 1200 B.C.
 - * Mayans ca. A.D. 250–900
 - * Aztecs ca. A.D. 1300s–1600s
 - * Hardly "Uncivilized"

Mesoamerica



Olmecs Mega-Statues



Teotihuacán



Teotihuacán Temple of the Sun



Teotihuacán

- * By A.D. 600 = Pop. 200K
- * Roughly Contemporaneous with Roman Empire
- * Largest City In Mesoamerica
- * City Sacked ca. A.D. 700
- * Pop. Decline by A.D. 500
 - * Reason Undetermined



Mayan Civilization



Mayan Civilization



Mayan Civilization



Mayan Civilization

- * Classical Period A.D. 250–900
 - * Peak of Building Period
- * Post–Classical Period
 - * Decline in Population/Culture
 - * Ecological Disaster, Erosion?
 - * Foreign Invasion?
 - * Peasant Revolt?
 - * Epidemic Disease?

Aztec Civilization: Lake Texcoco



Aztec Civilization: Human Sacrifice



Aztec Civilization: Skull Racks



Aztec Civilization

- * Called themselves Mexicas
- * Came from the North
 - * Northern Mexico/S.W. USA
- * Invaded Central Mexico
- * Established Capital at Tenochtitlan on Lake Texcoco
- * "Carved Out" an Empire



Aztec Civilization

- * Greatest Power during 13th–15th Century
- * Forced Subject Nations to Provide Victims for Human Sacrifice
- * Common Practice in Mesoamerica & Andean Region too
- * But, Aztecs do it in HUGE Scale



Aztec Civilization

- * Aztecs, Like many in Mesoamerica:
- * Believed that the Universe was on a 52 Year Cycle
- * If gods weren't strong enough... the universe would fail
- * Sacrifice made gods stronger



Aztec Civilization

- * Went Beyond Simple Blood Letting
- * Victims were:
 - * Often Flayed Alive
 - * Or Chests Opened with Obsidian Knives
 - * Beating Hearts Removed



Aztec Civilization

- * Source of Victims:
 - * Preferably, Captive Warriors
 - * Speak Nahuatl Language, Like the Aztecs
- * "Flower Wars"
 - * small-scale, to get POWs
 - * trained to capture enemies rather than kill them
 - * allowed Spanish to more easily defeat them



Unintended Consequences of "Discovery"

- * Columbus accidentally finds "New World"
- * Spanish see this as chance for Conquest
- * Reconquista still Fresh on their minds
- * Last Moorish Kingdom in Spain fell in 1492!



Unintended Consequences of "Discovery"

- * Conquistadores = Zeal for Conquest & Gold
- * Killing Muslims or Killing "Savages" = all the same
- * Priests = Zeal for Saving Souls
 - * Babies were supposedly Baptized, then skull crushed
 - * So they're Souls are Safe!



Unintended Consequences of "Discovery"

- * **European Diseases**

- * **Measles**

- * **Small Pox**

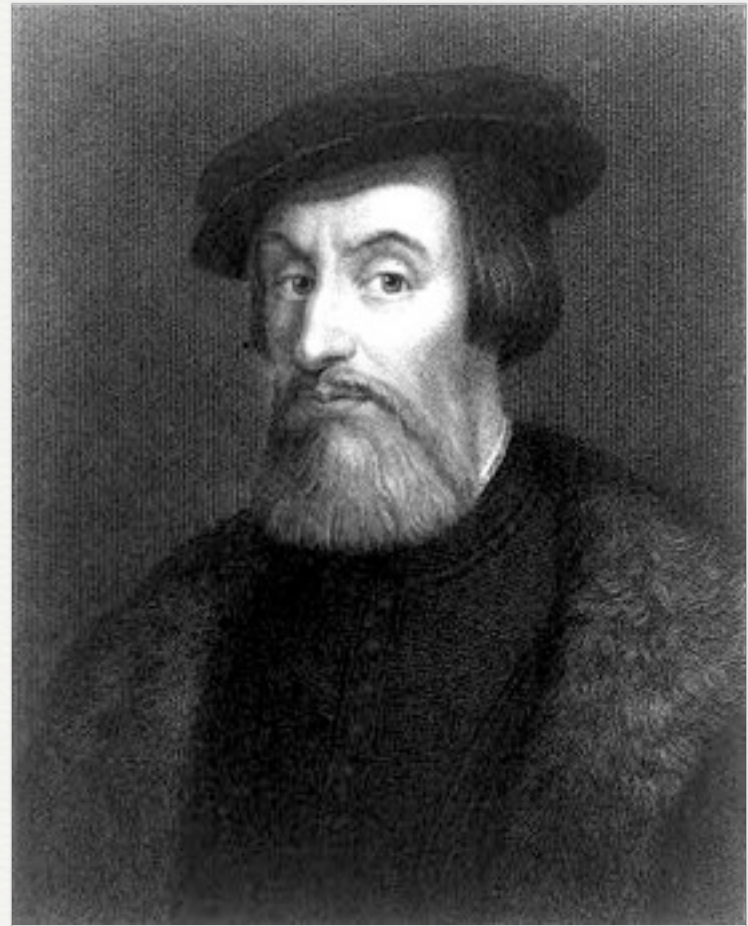
- * **Natives Returned the Favor:**

- * **Europeans took back a virulent form of Syphilis**



The Spanish Empire

- * 1519 Hernán Cortés Lands on Mexican Coast
- * \approx 500 Men
- * A Few Horses
- * A Few Cannons
- * Armor
- * Some Muskets

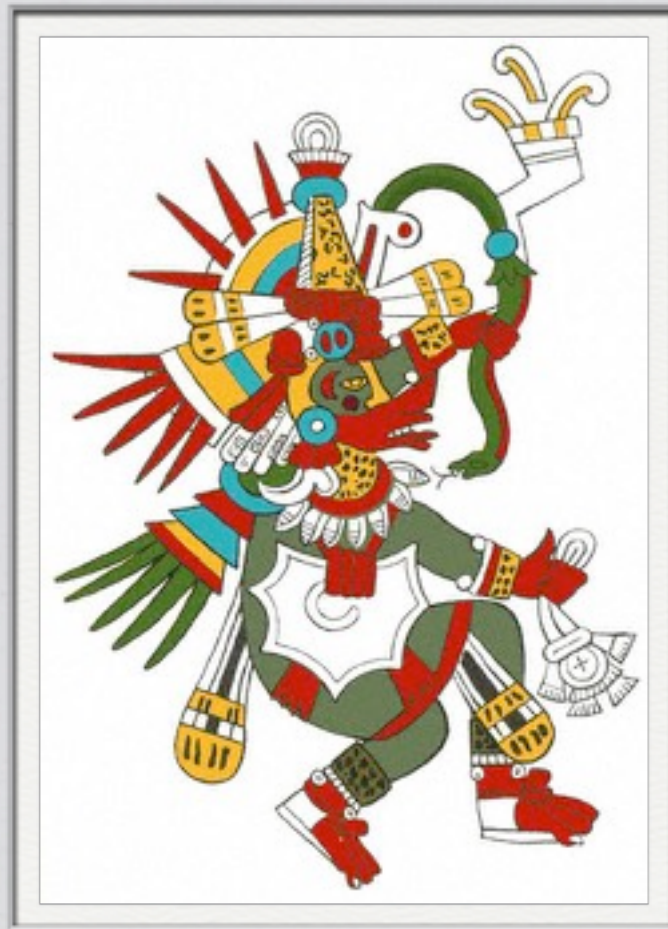


The Spanish Empire

- * Opened Communications with Aztec Ruler
- * Moctezuma II (1466–1520)
 - * He Thought Cortés was the god Quetzalcoatl
 - * He'd Promised to return?!
 - * So Moctezuma Hesitates



Quetzalcoatl



Cortés Conquest



- * **Moctezuma II:**
 - * **Tries to appease Cortés with Gold**
 - * **It only whets his appetite!**
 - * **Cortés creates alliance with Aztecs' rivals**
 - * **Easy to do**
 - * **They hate being Sacrificed!**

Cortés Conquest

- * Spanish conquistadores & Tlaxcala allies march on Teotihuacán
- * Moctezuma II is seized
- * He dies in captivity
- * The Aztecs allow Spanish to stay
- * But, don't really trust them
- * leads to Violence!!!



Cortés Conquest

- * Aztecs ambush the Spaniards
- * Almost wipe them out!
- * Last Aztec ruler resists Cortés fiercely!
- * But, 1520:
 - * Cortés defeats Aztecs & razes Teotihuacán



Incas in Peru

- * Not Really an Empire
- * They didn't Subjugate People
- * They rewarded Allies
- * Took Local Leaders of "Conquered" People as members of their "Confederation"
- * Leader of All = The Inca (King)



Incas in Peru

- * Rapidly Expanded in 15th Century
- * Instead of Human Sacrifice as Tribute
- * Incas took forced labor as Tribute
- * Much Work harnessed by Engineers
- * The Most Talented of all Ancient



Pizarro's Conquest

- * Francisco Pizarro (c. 1478–1541)
 - * Conquered Incas in 1532
 - * Landed on West Coast of Peru with \approx 200 Men
 - * Lured Inca Atahualpa (ca. 1500–1533) into meeting
 - * Then seized him as POW



Pizzaro's Conquest



- * Pizzaro tried to use Atahualpa as a "Puppet Ruler"
- * He Killed Hundreds of his family & followers
- * Atahualpa tried to pay a ransom for his freedom
- * 1533 Pizzaro simply killed him!

Pizzaro's Conquest

- * Spanish then take Inca capital, Cuzco
- * Inca resistance continued for almost 40 more Years!
- * Though Empires Fell... Culture Endured
- * Assimilation was incomplete



The Church in Spanish America

- * **Many Clergy Steeped in Christian Humanism:**
 - * Like Erasmus, believed in the "Philosophy of Christ"
 - * It could be applied to ANY People ANYWHERE
- * **Mendicant Friars tried to tend Flock**



The Church in Spanish America

- * Tension built between Conquistadores & Clergy
- * Soldiers dreamed of "Glory & Gold"
- * Use Natives for Slaves
 - * Extract Riches in Mines
 - * Slave Labor in Fields



The Church in Spanish America

- * Love/Hate Relationship
 - * Friars hated how Conquistadores treated Natives
 - * But could only Convert Conquered Peoples
 - * Most Outspoken Critic = Bartolomé de las Casas



Bartolomé de las Casas

- * Began as New World Noble
- * Actually ran a Plantation (Encomienda) in Hispaniola
- * Despaired at treatment of natives
- * Became a Dominican
- * Then an advocate for Fair Treatment of Natives



Bartolomé de las Casas

- * Wrote a book, a Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies
 - * Dedicated to Philip II of Spain
- * Claimed Conquest was
- * Catalogued Atrocities of Conquistadores!



Bartolomé de las Casas

- * Book Brought Eventual Change
- * Philip II established Council of the Indies
 - * Selected members supervised the Spanish "Overlords" in America
- * But, book gave birth to the Black Legend!!!



The Black Legend

- * Started by Spain's Rivals:
 - * France & esp. England
- * Took Horrors from de las Casa's Book
- * Then Exaggerated them even More!
- * Underplayed Horrors of Aztecs!



The Church in Spanish America

- * By End 16th Century...
- * The Church Maintaining Status Quo in America
 - * Lots of Money at Stake
 - * Not to Mention Peace & Harmony of Society
 - * Few Clergy Voice Concerns!

The Economy of Exploitation

- * Europe sucks the New World into THEIR Economic System:
 - * Europeans Develop
 - * Mining Industry
 - * Plantation Agriculture
 - * Americans, then Africans
 - * Supply Forced Labor

Mining

- * **Conquistadores:**

- * **Grew Greedy for Gold**

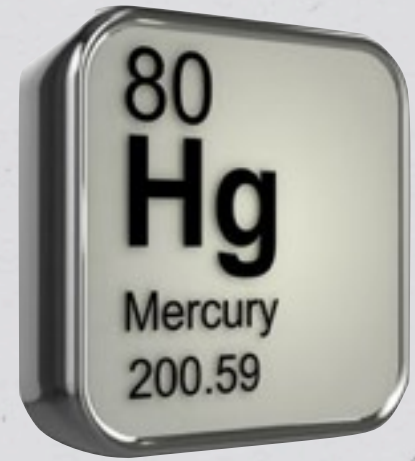
- * **Then, began Silver Mining when that was discovered**

- * **Use Natives as Slave Labor**

- * **Many died from Dangers of Mining or Exhaustion**

Mining

- * Spanish "Crown" (King) collected 1/5th of All Silver or Gold in Taxes
 - * The Quinto Real
- * To Maintain Control
 - * The King had a Monopoly in Mercury
 - * Crucial to Smelting Silver Ore



Agriculture

- * Based on the Hacienda
 - * The Plantation House
- * Land Owned by Peninsulares
 - * Those BORN in Europe
 - * Later Included Creoles
 - * Children of European Parents Born in the New World

Agriculture

- * Spanish established the Encomienda System:
 - * Conquistadores granted Land from "the Crown"
 - * Those ON the land become "subjects" of the Landlord
 - * Much Like Manorialism

Agriculture

- * Native Americans = Serfs w/o the Benefits
 - * Forced Labor
 - * Tied to the Land
 - * Subject to "Law" of the Landlord
 - * Thus, Brutalized or Killed
 - * Thus, "The Black Legend"

Agriculture

- * **Hacienda System:**

- * **2 Main Products:**

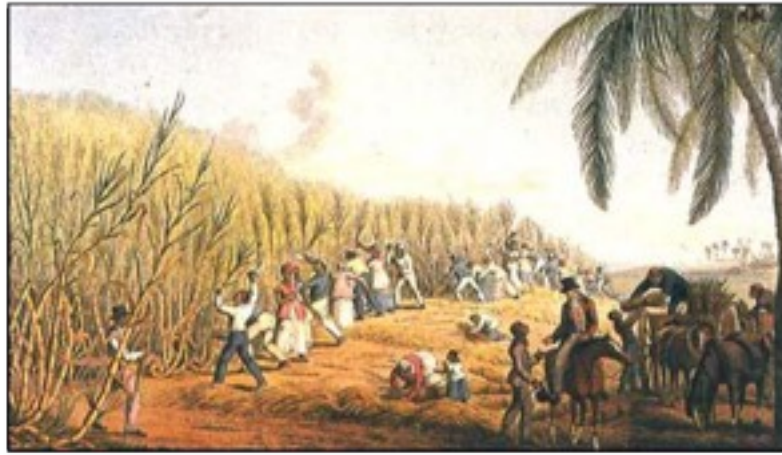
- * **Food for Mines or Cities**

- * **Leather Goods for Mining Machinery**

- * **Thus, Farms & Ranches work for the Mining Industry**



In the Caribbean



- * Spanish Lands here Ideal for Sugar Industry
- * Lucrative "Cash Crop"
- * Labor-Intensive
- * Hacienda/ Encomienda System Perfect for This!
- * Forced Labor makes Spanish \$\$\$!

Labor Servitude

- * Thus, Spanish Colonization:
 - * Exploitative of People
 - * Purely Extractive
 - * Pull Out Minerals, etc.
 - * Send them to Spain
 - * Nothing is returned to the Natives, Except DEATH



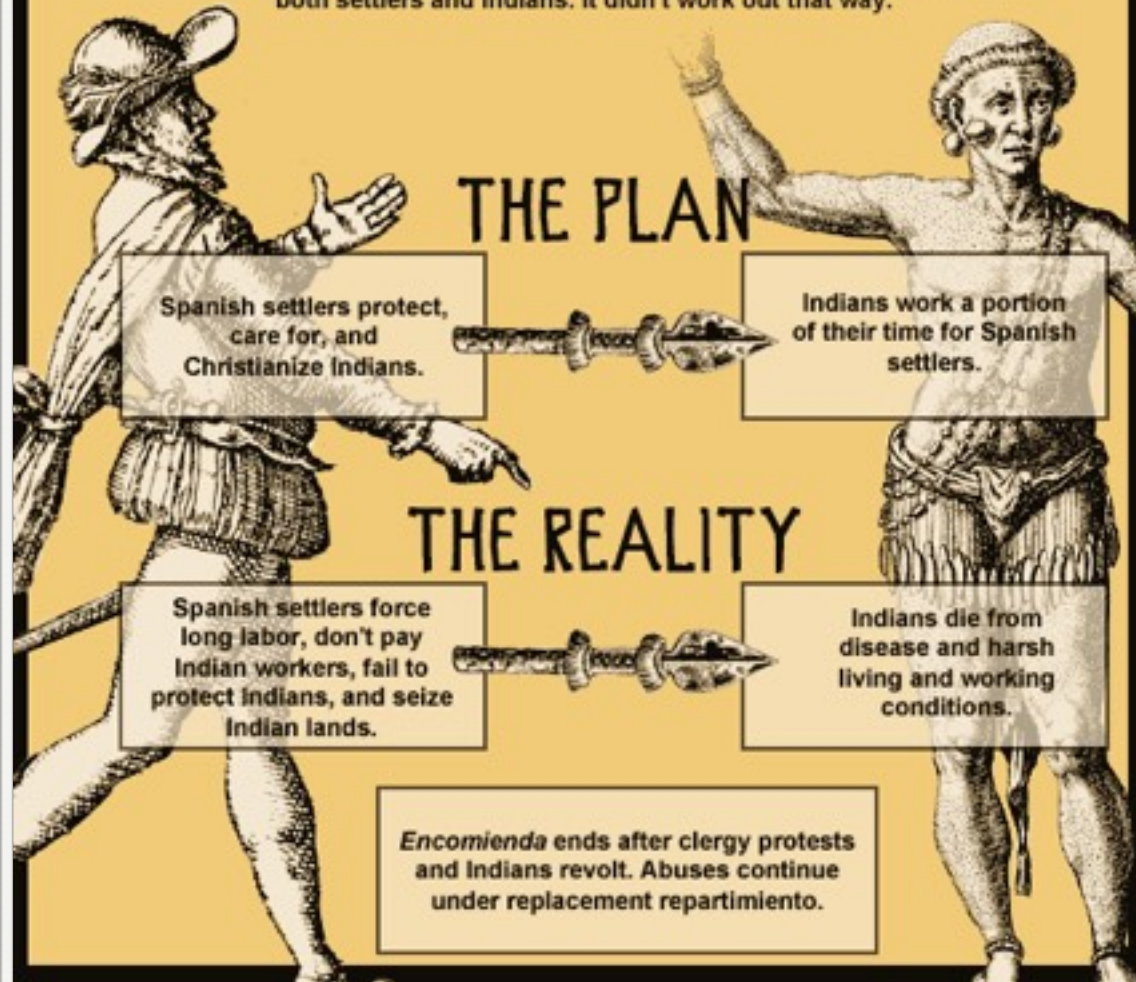
Encomienda's Demise

- * **Worked Well at First:**
 - * **Conquistadores willing to chance Crossing to New World for Potential Gains**
 - * **Free Land, Free Labor**
- * **But de las Casas' Book causes concern**
- * **And Kings Fear Conquistadores**

Encomienda:

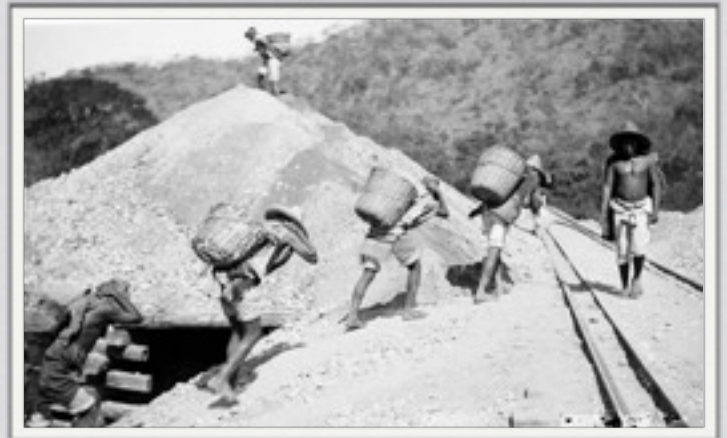
The Plan and the Reality

The Spanish claimed that the encomienda system would benefit both settlers and Indians. It didn't work out that way.



Repartimiento

- * Replaces Encomienda System
- * Called "Debt Peonage"
- * Essentially a LABOR TAX
- * All Native Adult Males
 - * Required to Provide Gov't with Several Days of Free Labor
 - * Much Like Corvée of France



Repartimiento

- * Since it's Short-term:
 - * Taskmasters Work Natives to Death
 - * There will be someone to replace them Soon
 - * Abuse gets Worse!
 - * Soon they ARE Running Out of Natives!

The "Final Solution"

- * Spanish, actually ALL Europeans:
 - * Turned to Africa for NEW Source of Forced Labor
 - * Especially @ Sugar Plantations
 - * Caribbean & Brazil
- * They had an Enhanced Immune System Due to Exposure to Europeans

The "Final Solution"

- * Africans are more immune to:
 - * Smallpox
 - * Measles
 - * Typhoid Fever
- * Native Americans were DECIMATED by these
 - * Mexico 25 Million ↓↓ 2 Million!



Impact on Europe

- * Growing Skepticism about "Classical" Knowledge
 - * They Were SO Wrong about New World
 - * Can they be Trusted About ANYTHING?
 - * Cf. Montaigne, On Cannibals

Impact on Europe

- * Later Europeans Lionized Columbus:
 - * His Discoveries Ultimately FORCED Europeans to Learn to Cooperate!
 - * Commerce Dev'd and Enriched Almost ALL Europe

Impact on Europe

- * **Material Changes**
 - * **Influx of Spices & Precious Metals**
 - * **Mixed Blessing**
 - * **Created Inflation**
 - * **Rising Prices!**
 - * **\$ in Circulation Exploded!**

Inflation

- * Spread over Some Time:
 - * 1530–1555 Prices Doubled in Spain
 - * 1530–1600 Prices Quadrupled
 - * Luther's Wittenberg
 - * 1519–1540 Prices doubled on Clothing &

Wages Lagged

- * Prices Consistently Rose Faster than Wages
- * Thus Poorer Classes Suffered Most From Inflation
- * Created Tension between Classes
- * Increased Urban Pauperism
- * Stretched Resources of Charities

Those Rich Fuggers

- * **Private Entrepreneurs**

- * **Used Own Resources to Finance Research in:**

- * **Printing**

- * **Shipping**

- * **Mining**

- * **Textiles**

Those Rich Fuggers

- * Use Profits to Establish Themselves in Banking
- * High Interest Loans
 - * Kings & Popes Borrow from them
 - * Bankrolled Habsburg Emperors' Ventures & Wars



Those Rich de' Medicis

- * Like the Fuggers, gain \$\$\$ from Entrepreneurship
- * Get Wealthy, Esp. giving Loans to Popes!
- * Even Buy the Papacy a Few Times!
- * Sway World Events Often
- * Marry Daughters to Kings!

Those Rich Fuggers

- * Give Loans to H.R.E.
- * Charles V got 500,000 Florins
 - * Used it to Bribe Electors
 - * Thus, Elected as Holy Roman Emperor in 1519
 - * Adds to Fugger Prestige
 - * But, Some Suffer

The Downside

- * Great Wealth Drove a Wedge Between Classes
 - * Laity vs. Clergy
 - * Urban "Popolo Grosso" vs. the Guilds
 - * Landed Nobility vs. Peasantry
 - * Increased Tension!!!