NEW SPAIN - MEXICO (1521-1848)
“The Other Conquest”

- In 1521, the Aztec civilization is conquered by the Spanish and over 75,000 allies.
- The Spanish call the new land, “NUEVA ESPANA”
- The Conquest is devastating:
  - Population of the Americas prior to 1492
    - 25-30,000,000
  - Population of the Americas by 1650
    - 30,000
- The Catholic church plays a major role in the conquest of Mesoamerica.
• FRAY DIEGO DE LANDA  
  • Bishop of Yucatan  
  • “Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan”  
  • Burned thousands of Maya books

• BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS  
  • Bishop of Chiapas  
  • FATHER OF LIBERATION THEOLOGY  
  • Helped protect thousands of Indians from Spanish
• **FRAY BENARDINO DE SAHAGUN**
• Was sent to destroy Aztec culture
• Decided to research Aztec culture.
• His writings preserved a great deal of what we know about Aztec culture
• “**FLORENTINE CODEX**”
SYNCHRONIZATION

The apparition occurred at the Tepeyac, where there was a temple to the Aztec goddess Tonatzin.

Virgen of Guadalupe Estremadura, virgin on the flag of Cortez
COLONIAL ERA

- 1521-1821 - “NEW SPAIN”
- Spanish colonial society revolved around “Caste System”
- Your position in society was based on your position within the Caste.
- More than 100 classifications
# Spanish Caste System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Peninsulares”</th>
<th>European born whites</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Criollos”</td>
<td>Colonial born whites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>”Mestizo”</td>
<td>Mixed blood (Spanish-Indian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>”Mulatto”</td>
<td>Mixed blood (Spanish-Negro)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>”Indios”</td>
<td>Natives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>”Negros”</td>
<td>African</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Viceroy”

- The viceroy ("co-king") was the Spanish crowns’ representative in New Spain.
- There were two viceroys in the Americas: New Spain (Mexico) and Kingdom of Peru (South America).
Encomienda

- Early System of tributory labor.
- The Conquistador was given an encomienda and was known as “encomendado”
- Developed as a means of securing a cheap labor supply.
- In return for land/work force, the encomendado had to promise to take care and “Christianze” the indians on his lands.
- By 1560’s it begins to decline.
The Hacienda

- Begins in the 17th century
- Haciendas were large estates which dedicated themselves to agriculture or livestock production.
- The true purpose was not for economic prosperity, but to maintain social division
- "Hacendados" were only Spanish landowners
- "Debt Peonage"
  - Peons were poor Indian workers.
  - The peon would be paid, but he had to purchase all his goods from the hacienda store (expensive)
  - As peons went into debt, they had to "work off" this debt to the hacendado.
The Church

- The Church was the largest landowner in all of New Spain.
- The power of the church was at the same level as viceroyalty.
- By the late 1700’s the church owned 60% of all landholdings in New Spain.
The Mission System

- The Spanish missions were established during the 15th to 19th centuries from South America to the US southwest.

- Their purpose was to Christianize local Indigenous population.

- Many times the Indians were mistreated and beaten.
Economy

- Farming and ranching became the primary source of income.
- Silver, gold, and copper made Spain the world's first “Super power”.
- The world's silver supply doubled in less than 200 years.
- New Spain also exported. *Cochineal* and indigo dyes, derived from indigenous species.
- *Cacao* became an important cash crop once the Aztec delicacy *xocolatl* (chocolate) became all the rage in Continental society.
- Vanilla, sugar, cotton and tobacco also became lucrative crops.
“Mestizo’s”

- The colonial era was oppressive for those not Spanish or of Spanish descent.
- Half Spanish/half Indian = Mestizo
- As time passed, the Mestizo population began to grow and became larger than the Spanish and Indian populations
- Modern day populations of Latin America are descendants of these first Mestizos. (90%)
“MEXICO”

- By 1800’s Spanish power was on the decline.
- Many are influenced by the Enlightenment writings of Rousseau, Locke, and the French & American revolutions.
- One of those influenced is a Criollo priest Miguel Hidalgo.
- Hidalgo begins his revolt on September 16, 1810 calling for independence from Spanish, an end to slavery, and better Indian conditions.

- Hidalgo is supported by Indians and Mestizos, but NOT Criollos

- Hidalgo is arrested and executed on July 30, 1811.

- After his death, Father Jose Morelos and others take over for but by 1815 they are all arrested or killed and it looks like the end of the independence movement.
Success?

- In 1821, the Spanish Gen. Agustine de Iturbide turned against the army and leads a successful Criollo revolt vs. Spain.
- Agustin I - Emperor of the Republic Mexico.
- The revolt is finally successful due to CRIOLLO support.
- In the end, the Spanish Peninsulares are kicked out and the Spanish Criollos controlled Mexico.
- In the next 50 years, Mexico is dominated by the military and the life of most Mexicans changed very little.
MEXICO: A NEW NATION (1821-1848)
Mexico gains its independence in 1821.

In 1821, Mexico’s northern territories such as California and Tejas were not heavily populated.

Fearing expansion by other countries into its northern territories, in the 1830’s it opens its doors to Americans.

Thousands of Americans move into Tejas.
Texas opened to American under 3 conditions:

- 1) Convert to Catholicism
- 2) Follow Mexican Law
- 3) Mexican citizenship

Law of April 6, 1830

- The Govt begins to fear the large American population
- Pass new laws to discourage immigration.
- Outlawed slavery
“The Texas Revolution”
(1836)
In response to the new laws, Texans begin an armed revolt.

In 1835, President Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana led an expedition to Texas to put down the revolt.

“The Alamo” (2/23 - 3/6)

- Over 100+ are surrounded and killed

San Jacinto (April 1836)

- Santana is defeated and signs away the Tejas territory.

From 1836 -1845, Texas is an independent country.
“The Mexican-American War”
(1846-1848)
The Road To War

- In 1845, the USA annexes Texas.
- Mexico breaks off diplomatic relations with the USA.
- The US claimed its southern boundary to be the Rio Grande and not the Nueces River.
- On Jan. 13, 1846, Polk ordered 4000 men under Zachary Taylor to march from the Nueces River to the Rio Grande, provocatively near Mexican troops.
- On April 25, 1846, the “Thornton Affair” ends in the death of 16 Americans.
- Polk pushed for a declaration of war stating that “American blood has been shed on American Soil.” In reality, the soldiers were in Mexican land.
Polk hoped that once American had beaten Mexico, he could get California and end the war.

The invasion attacked California, New Mexico, Northern Mexico, and Central Mexico at once.
“The San Patricios”

- Irish immigrants in the USA army decided to fight on the Mexican side due to religious reasons.
- When the war ended many of them were executed.
The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

- Nicholas Trist negotiated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848:
  - US gains all Mexican territory from Texas to California that was north of the Rio Grande.
  - U.S. paid $15 million to Mexico
  - In essence, the U.S. had forced Mexico to "sell" the Mexican Cession lands.
CONCLUSIONS

- Mexico loses over half of its land.
- Mexicans became foreigners overnight.
- Article X: guaranteed protection of Mexican Land grants, but was voided by Congress.
- 1849 California Gold rush
- By 1900's the majority of rich Mexican landowners lose their land.