Introduction to Latin America

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The Iberians
The Reconquista
Moorish Influence

- Language
- Food
- Knowledge
- Society
Consolidating the Empire

• 1469 marriage
• King Ferdinand II of Aragon (1479)
• Queen Isabella I of Castile (1474)
The Spanish Inquisition (1478)
Why Iberians?

- Imperialism
- Economics
- Geography
- Religion
- Technology
Christopher Columbus and The New World

- August 1492
- September 1493
- May 1498
- May 1502
Mythbusters- Columbus Edition

1. Columbus proved the world was round.
2. Columbus was Italian.
3. Columbus was an adventure-seeker and successful entrepreneur.
4. Columbus discovered America.
5. Columbus and his achievements are why we celebrate Columbus Day.
The First Contact & The Columbian Exchange

- Plants (tobacco, maize, sugarcane, cacao, wheat, potatoes)
- Domesticated animals (horses, pigs**, cows, sheep, turkey, llama, alpaca, pests)
- Germs/diseases (smallpox, syphilis, malaria)
- Technology (weapons, metals, wheel, writing, agriculture, architecture)
- Fermentation (shared)*
Conquest and the Age of “Discovery”

- Pedro Alvares Cabral in Brazil (1500)
- Hernan Cortes in Mexico (1521)
- Francisco Pizarro in Peru (1533)
Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)
The Aztec Civilization (c. 1345-1521 AD)
Tenochtitlan
Hernan Cortes and the Conquest of Mexico

1519: Arrival in Mexico
1521: Conquest of Aztecs by taking control of Tenochtitlan
7 Myths of the Spanish Conquest

1. Myth of Exceptional Men
2. Myth of the King’s Army
3. Myth of the White Conquistador
   • Juan Garrido
4. Myth of Completion
5. Myth of Miscommunication
   • La Malinche/Malintzin
   • Geronimo Aguilar
6. Myth of Native Desolation
7. Myth of Superiority
Aftermath of Conquest

- Implantation of Spanish and Portuguese authority in New World (Mexico, Peru, Caribbean, Brazil)
- Spanish and Portuguese imperial territory expands
  - Conflicts between European powers
- Destruction (but not elimination) of indigenous populations and their way of life
  - Language
  - Religion
  - Economics
- Indigenous Diaspora
- Slavery (Indigenous and African)
- The Black Legend
- Start of colonial period
Defining Colonial Period

• From conquest until independence (approx. 1500s to 1820s– except Brazil)

• What is colonialism?
  • The establishment of a colony in a territory controlled by a political power that inhabits another territory. The policy and practice of governing a territory, occupying it with settlers, imposing a foreign culture, and using it for financial gain.

• Goals/Objectives- “Glory, God and Gold”
  • Political
  • Religious
  • Economic