Exam Study Guide

Belize’s Political Existence

Nation

- Nation is recognized as 'the' political community that ensures the legitimacy of the state over its territory. Transforms the state into the state of all its citizens; Ernest Renan: heroic past, large-scale solidarity, feeling of love and sacrifices.

- Nationalism was based on the cultural entity of a nation—ethnic—genes. It created Symbolic Narratives of their origins and history. Symbols: flag, national tree, plants, bird, anthem, and prayer.

State

- A compulsory political organization with a centralized government that maintains a monopoly of the legitimate use of force within a certain territory. Administrative control: ministries, police, judges.

Origins of nationalis in the 18th century

- Dynastic Realm: centers of power, diverse people, had subjects, loyalty to kings

- Religious: Humanity united by ONE access to truth; belief system, faith and Love

Benedict Anderson and the Imagined community

- limited and sovereign; members cannot all know each other; strive for freedom; comradeship of equals; people are blinded by national issues due to love for the country.

Sovereignty

- The supremacy of the will of the state as expressed by its laws over all the citizens within its boundaries and independence against all foreign control and intervention.

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Belize’s political system

- electoral process: An electoral system in which a candidate or party is selected by achievement of a simple majority.; The party winning 16 seats (representatives) wins the election and becomes government; The party leader becomes the prime minister.

- The government/national assembly: The legislature is composed of the Senate and House of Representatives.

- The constitution/supreme law: A body of fundamental principles or laws stating how a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed. Laws of Belize. Procedures to run the country and ministries.

Maya Post-Classic Period

- Migration to the North: Cities in the southern lowlands= abandoned; Northern Yucatan flourished due to migration; Switch from religious focus to agriculture and trade.

- In the South: The Maya abandoned major cities; Went into smaller settlements; Extended families with chiefs/alcaldes; Agriculture dominated their life; Maintained a strong Belief system.
-United Community: Joint stock company (everyone helped each other); Combined forces to promote common good, and spread the burden of risk to all members; Collective works and assignment of public works projects to residents.

Maya Areas at the Time of Contact

- Chactemal: A few kilometers from Calderitas in present day Quintana Roo covering the whole area as far south to Guinea Grass. Chetumal controlled the area including the mouth of the Hondo, New river, and to Progresso Lagoon.

- Dzuilinicob: The area within the New River (Dzuilinicob river), and the Xibun river to the south and as far west as the Macal River. A major Maya group and city was located in the Western region and the city was called Tipu.

- Manche Chol: Group of Maya that spoke Manche Chol. Includes areas within: south east Peten, northeast Alta Verapaz, around Golfo Dulce, Lower Motagua, and in Belize from Monkey River to Sarstoon.

Sailing East

- Religion in Europe: The Catholic church had the pope at as its head (1492); The clergy held high power; Christianity Vrs Islam.

- Crusades: A series of medieval (religious) wars 1300s-1400s to reconquer lands from the muslims; A duty to convert non-believers; La Reconquista

- Trade: Marco Polo visited China in the 1200s establishing routes; Europeans bought from Arab merchants; Europeans enjoyed: spices, sugar cane, pepper, ginger, perfumes, gold

- Threats to the trade: Arabs only accepted gold as payment (PAYMENT- THREATENED); Heavy taxation across areas= high prices for goods; The rise of the Ottoman empire (Muslim) did not allow free trade (TRADE THREATENED).

Columbus’ Propositions

- Maritime tools: Astrolabe: a graduated quarter circle of wood, with sighting holes mounted on one edge and a plumb-bob hanging from the apex; Magnetic Compass: was mounted in a glass box/bowl for more accurate information; The Caravel: Three movable sails to tack le against wind. Pulley, wrenches and pivots facilitated work.

- Why the Spanish Agreed? The Canaries was a realistic staging post; Beat/ level the race with the Portuguese for trade; It would help to convert new people to Christianity.

- The Conditions: The areas “discovered” will be property of Castile; Only Castilians can settle the area; Columbus would be the Viceroy; Columbus would receive 10% of the wealth generated.

Contacting the Maya

- First Voyage: Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria; Martin and Vicente Pinzon (94 men); Sighted an island in the Bahamas area on October 11th 1492 (San Salvador); The Santa Maria was destroyed= establishing a settlement called La Navidad; Guacanagari helped them to establish a fort.

- Incursions in Chactemal: 1. Alonso Davila: went into Chactemal and found it empty; he created a town named Villa real: he defeated a small Maya band. “ Nachancan answered “I do not desire peace, the tribute you desire will be paid in turkeys in the shape of spears and maize in the shape of arrows;” The Maya used guerrilla tactics; 1532: the Spanish were defeated; Gonzalo Guerrero Married Zacil Ha; (daughter of Nachancan)= Mestizos.

Spanish Ownership

- Intercaetera papal bull 1493: Pope Alexander VI granted the rights to Spain over the “new land.”

- Treaty of Tordesillas 1494: Divided the “new land” between Spain and Portugal; Spain controlled all lands to the west; Portugal controlled all land to the east.
Reformation: Break in the Catholic Church; Protestants rose to prominence; Protestants hated Catholics and felt no respect for the pope; Protestants felt free to explore the “new world.”

Pirates and privateering: Early pirates only attacked Spanish ships (FRENCH FIRST); Privateering: Privateering= fighting and thieving at sea but with a permit/commission from the government.

Treaty of Madrid 1670= The English outlawed Piracy; Buccaneers gave no allegiance to any nation and were willing to be hired as mercenaries.

British Baymen: Why the Spanish did not settle British Honduras? The Maya resisted Spanish incursions in Chactemal and Rio Dulce; The closest forth that the Spanish had included Bacalar; They focused on extracting precious metals in other parts of the Americas; British Honduras was a swampy area.

-Buccaneers: Before coming to British Honduras they settled Laguna de Terminos in the Yucatan Peninsula.

Why British Honduras? 1. it was further away from the Spanish center of military power; 2. it was an ideal position for them to raid the Spanish ships; 3. The Spanish naval powers could not persecute the pirates into the treacherous sea area of British Honduras.

-Settlement Area: Mouth of the Belize River near present day Belize City; Used it as base by 1638; Did not plan on staying.

-Settlers: A group of self-centered, ill-mannered, and lawless exploiters that did not care about the area; Customs of the Bay: simple laws to manage behavior between baymen.

Rise of Logwood: Treaty of Madrid: Outlawed piracy = Europeans persecuted pirates/buccaneers; buccaneers gained the right to keep and settle within areas possessed within the western hemisphere; first “legal” rights over lands.

-Palo de tinte or palo de Campeche: The British decided to stay within this area to harvest logwood; Logwood produced various colors and the woolen industry had large demands; An era of “dandyism” spread in Europe.

-Logwood’s importance: Buccaneers found it more profitable and less risky; St. George’s Caye was the Capital and centre for Public Meetings; The Haulover Creek was the center of trade; the Buccaneers went in land (logwood grew clustered) and used the river to transport their logs.

-Location Laws: The location land laws were the system of land distribution used by the early settlers; the settlers held lands near the rivers and creeks so that their product could be transported to the mouth of the Belize River.

-1765 rules for claiming land: when a person finds an unoccupied logwood spot, he builds his hut and that spot shall be deemed his property. Following the line of the river; No person shall presume to cut anything within a thousand paces/yards of his hut; No inhabitant shall occupy two works at a time in any one river; No inhabitant shall claim a double portion of logwood works (under pretense of a partner); these laws were changed to follow a straight line of 2 thousand yards to be started and end at the riverside.

-Decline of logwood: During the 1700’s the logwood economy declined---Causes: Over Production= competition from India =Unprofitable; Asians created artificial dye=cheaper; A high demand for Mahogany

Rise of Mahogany: Used in the furniture industry and in the ship building industry= high demand; The Baymen focused on Mahogany extraction; The baymen took larger parcels of land; Forestocracy: a small number of rich, white landlords that controlled the settlement’s economic and political activity.

-Demands of Mahogany: Larger Parcels of land = expanding the settlement; A larger Labor force; Larger investments.

-Location Laws: When mahogany became the principal product that was being extracted the laws as it relates to land distribution. It was agreed: Three miles in a straight line is to be considered a Mahogany work; Each and every ten able
negro men slaves provided for two years of work or more; If a location is not possessed or occupied within 6 months the locations is to be deemed unoccupied.

Expanding the Settlement

- Treaty of Paris 1763: British extracted logwood without any legal permission from the Spanish; Signed between England and Spain; The Treaty of Paris gave the British right to Cut, load, and carry logwood; The Spanish re-stated that they were the owners and directed the British to demolish all buildings

- The treaty of Versailles 1783: Spain allowed the Baymen to cut logwood in the area between Belize and Hondo River; For the first time a border was being designated; All buildings were to be destroyed; Spain owned the territory; British could cut, load and carry logwood.

- Convention of London 1786: Signed between England and Spain; This treaty extended the boundary southwards to the Sibun River; The Baymen could now cut and load not only logwood but Mahogany; The British agreed to evacuate the Misquito Shore; No plantations were to be cultivated in the Honduras settlement; Spain Owned the territory; No construction could happen.