Kingdom of Guatemala 1609

Central American History
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Objectives

• Identify the geographical region included in the Captaincy General of Guatemala.

• Describe how the Spanish hindered the development of the Central American economy.
Captaincy General: Captaincies general were established districts that were under serious pressures from foreign invasion or Indian attack. They were under the jurisdiction of a Captain General.

Region Included modern day:
1. Chiapas
2. Guatemala
3. El Salvador
4. Honduras
5. Nicaragua
6. Costa Rica

Capital: Santiago (Antigua Guatemala)
Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala

- **Quauhtemallan- Kaqchikel Maya**
- Seat of Civil and Ecclesiastical authority
- Spaniards and American born Spaniards lived in the city (6% of the population).
- Controlled trade
- Moved after 1773: Earthquake
Spanish regulations on the economy

• Spain’s policies aimed to develop wealth for them: they did not encourage competition

• The colonies provided raw materials but were not permitted to develop the technology to create finished products; they had import from Spain

• Crown moved to outlaw or impose heavy taxation on industries
Impoverishment

• All trade was through Spain
• Colonies were prohibited to trade with each other
• Permission to create factories such as shoes, soap, glasses
• Responded: fraud, tax evasion, contraband
Industrial Opportunities: Mining

• Mines in Honduras
• Spain did not provide capital
• Monopolized mercury which was used to smelt ore
Industrial Opportunities

• Single-crop dependency
• Depended on the demand in Europe

CACAO
• Chocolate drink became popular in the 1600s
• Traded in New Spain
• End of 1600s plants became infested with insects and labor shortages existed

Indigo
• Shrub to create blue dye
• Required less labor
• Boom export in the late 1600s
• Declined in 1800s because of a locust plague
Class Activity: Get into Pairs

• Write a letter to the king (Phillip 111) complaining about the economic conditions in the Kingdom of Guatemala.
  • In the letter outline how the Spanish government is not allowing the colony to grow economically.

Dear your majesty,
I am writing this letter as a citizen of the Kingdom of Guatemala to state or report.....