

## Exploration and European Arrival to the Americas & Conquest

Crusades- holy wars against the Muslims across Europe to capture the holy land for the Catholic Church.

Prince Henry “The Navigator”- Portuguese Prince that funded a navigational school to explore around Africa.

Christopher Columbus- funded by the Spanish crown he set out to find a direct route west to Asia but instead got lost and landing in the Americas.

Hernan Cortez- Spanish conquistador that lead the conquest of the Aztec empire.

Francisco Pizarro- Spanish conquistador that lead the conquest of the Inca empire.

## Colonial Latin America Society and Politics

**Encomienda System**- Encomendero Christianized [& exploit] Indians & in return he demanded tribute & free labour

**Repartiniento System**- the temporary sharing of “indian” workers for a given task. Under this system the royal authorities controlled and distributed the natives.

### Colonial Administration

- The **King** was a divine patriarch that was at the top of the social ladder.
- The **Viceroy**: was the king’s principal representative in the New World, were considered to be the shadows of the kings
- The **Audiencia**: the highest royal court and consultative council in the New World.
- The **Captaincy General**: Subdivisions of the viceroyalties for management of smaller areas
- **Governors, corregidores, and alcaldes mayores**
- **Municipal officials** (cabildo): controlled the villages there were two types of cabildos the creole and indigenous.

## **Society in Colonial Latin America**



## **The Church in the Spanish Administration**

- Priests were sent to America to convert the natives, by doing this the priests would also be Europeanizing them: teaching the trades, manners, customs, languages, and habits of the Spanish.
- priesthood occupied the top administrative posts in governments

### Topics for Further Discussion:

#### Gold & Silver

The Conquest- **Guns & Germs**

**Major themes** of the Colonial Latin American Period- Enslaving the Natives; Mass Exploitation of Resources; Forcing Christianity onto Natives; Corruption; African Slavery.