Latin American History Test 2 - Colonial Latin America

**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 Pizzaro - 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

**Repartimiento 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 mayors**
- **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.