Why the Spanish came?

- Fall of Rome: Rome unified and empire in all of Europe, After they fell all lords began to fight for land and power, Other areas came to drain their sources: Moors, Vikings.
- People had to give ten percent of their earning to the church, Church did not pay taxes, Three different Popes
- King gave large parcels of lands to the noblemen, Commoners had to work as serfs and gave almost all their produce to the noblemen, In exchange they were allowed to live on the land.
- Bubonic plague/black death: Plague causes fever and a painful swelling of the lymph glands called buboes, Transmitted by Rats and fleas, Killed 25 million people in Europe
- The church united: the belief system was set in place, Crusades started to convert everybody to Christianity

Spanish Empire

- The Iberian peninsula was being dominated by foreign powers including the moors, arabs and muslims but managed to get united when queen Isabella and Ferdinand united to form Spain. Once Spain managed to get power they set out to fight for their lands (this was called la Reconquista). While doing that they began to get in touch with the different spices and godf from Asia and that made them want to trade with the Asians.
- Though they wanted to trade they couldn’t on land because the Ottoman empire was raiding their trading caravans as a result they decided to find a route through the sea.
- The portuguese princes Henry the navigator set out east around Africa to reach Asia
- The Spanish were jealous since the race to Asia had started and as a result When Christopher Colombus (Genoa-Italy) came to give them an offer to explore they took the offer. He navigated west and eventually met the island of Hispanola (present day Haiti and Dominican Republic)
- The aim of Columbus under the Spanish empire was to: establish colonies (stay) and also to convert non-believers/ to Christianize/civilize.

The encomienda system: A Spanish man (encomendero) would be given land and an amount of natives. His responsibility was to Christianize, protect, and “civilize” them in exchange for their free labor and tribute
- Avenues to colonization: Introduction of Diseases; Aldea system: church at the center—Catholicism; Introduction of Metals; Introduction of Alcohol—Brought in Aguardiente-

What happened after the decline?

- Climate issues (drought), Deforestation, Civil wars, Diseases, War fare
- post classic: Dramatic changes in the Maya lowlands; Large constructions stopped; The Maya abandoned their big cities. Migration occurred to the north in the Yucatan area!
- Society: The Maya reorganized themselves into smaller bands; Extended families, Agriculture was at the center of life, Hereditary elite monopolized power
- 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
- Trade: Elite controlled trade with other communities, Trading routes: stretched along the entire coast of southern Yucatan, Central America, central Mexico, the Guatemalan Highlands, Pacific coast and the Caribbean islands. Salt, honey, beans, corn
- What made them survive: Community unity, Land and property, Strong belief system

Maya areas at the time of contact

- Chactermal: 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. Controlled coastal trade.
- 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. Province of Yucatec Maya speakers can be referred as Chan.
- 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.
Incursions

Chactumal: 1508: an exploratory ship was along the coast spreading diseases. A Ship travelling to Jamaica Shipwrecked and some of the Spanish men reached to the northern region; Gonzalo Guerrero and Geronimo de Aguilar, Fransisco de Montejo: 1527-29: attacked the region but under estimated the Maya.

- Alonso Davila: went into Chactumal and found it empty; 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.

- 1544: THE PACHECOS: GASPAR, MELCHOR (son) AND ALONSO (nephew). Launched a campaign against the Maya: They conquered a lot of settlements, Men and women were garotted and thrown into lakes with weights tied to them, hands, ears, noses were chopped off, others were thorn to pieces. Others died in hunger, The Pachecos established Bacalar, Chetumal was never taken over.

-Dzuilinicob: The Spanish could not control Tipu, Another contact was when the governor of Bacalar visited Tipu, The Spanish had control over the Maya in the area now know as Guatemala.

- Friars Fuensalida and Orbita visited Tipu in canoes, The Maya welcomed them and the Friars taught the Maya were converted to Christianity, Discovered that the Maya: were still practicing their religion, After the Friars left the Maya burnt down the churches.

-Manche Chol: In the 1600’s the Spanish had converted many manche Chol and shipped the other to the Guatemalan highlands; the others that stayed were wiped out by diseases. Dominicans tried to convert them; Joseph Delgado; the British were already here.

Maya forms of resistance: warfare, run away, hide religious beliefs, did not perform duties.