Conquest of the Americas

Contact and Conflict

1450-1700
Introduction

Between 1450-1700 European civilization spread through trade, imperialism, and colonialism

Guiding Questions:

Was this inevitable?
Was the spread of European culture a result of Western Superiority?
Agenda

Factors of Exploration and Conquest
Aztec Society & Spanish Conquest
Inca Society & Spanish Conquest
Factors of Exploration and Conquest

- Capitalism- pre-capitalist society to capitalist society
- Searching for Wealth
- Geography
- Technology
- The Search for Souls- *The Mission*
Aztec Empire
Aztec Society

First Encounter- 1519 Hernan Cortes
Great Cities- Tenochtitlán (Huge Temple, Numerous Canals, Royal Palace)
Highly Structured Society- Based on Agriculture and Religion
Spanish Conquest

- Radical Depopulation
- Disease
- Forced Labour
- Slavery - *The Mission*
- Demoralization
- Introduction of Cattle, Sheep and Goats
Inca Empire
Inca Society

- Extremely Wealthy
- Complex Political Organization
- Accomplished Feats of Engineering
Spanish Conquest

Series of Attacks (1525-1572)

Encomienda System

Disease
Works Cited

Legacy: The West and the World, Garfield Newman

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