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

- First Encounter - 1519 Hernan Cortes
- Great Cities - Tenochtitlan (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
- Microsoft Encarta Reference Library 2003