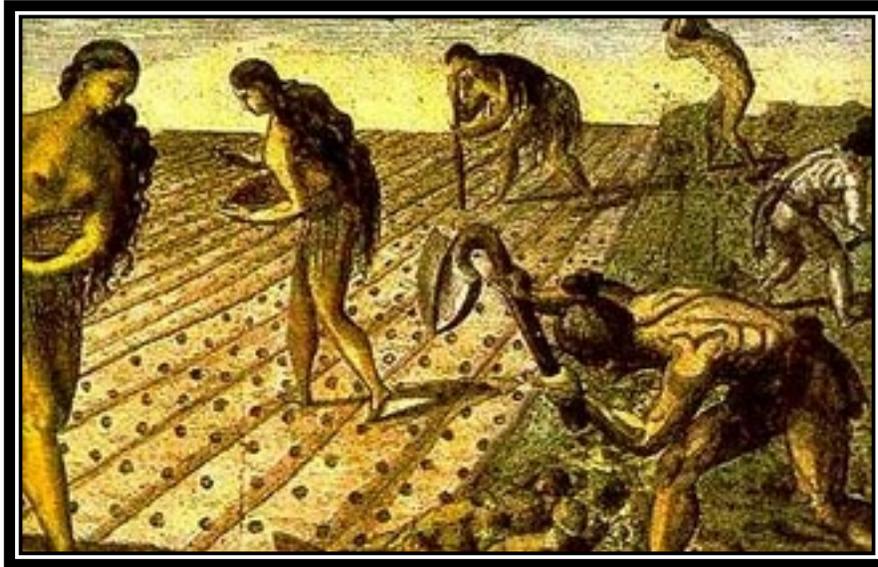


NAME:

BLOCK:

SPANISH EMPIRE-BUILDING IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENTS
& THE ENCOMIENDA SYSTEM



DIRECTIONS: Read and annotate the following primary source and secondary source excerpt, respond to the following questions and fill out the “SPANISH EMPIRE BUILDING STRATEGIES” graphic organizer on the back.

PRIMARY SOURCE: “MISSIONARY PROTEST”

“Everything that has happened since the marvelous discovery of the Americas...seems to overshadow all the deeds of famous men in history, no matter how heroic, and to silence all talk of other wonders of the world. Prominent amid the aspects of this story which have caught the imagination are the massacres of innocent peoples.”

SOURCE: 1542, Spanish Missionary Priest, Bartolome de Las Casas commenting on the Spanish system of empire building within the Americas.

- 1.) In your own words, summarize what Bartolome de Las Casas is claiming.

- 2.) What is the tone of this document? What words or phrases inform your decision?

- 3.) What might this excerpt imply about the Spain’s empire building strategy?

SECONDARY SOURCE EXCERPT: “RULING THE SPANISH EMPIRE”

By the mid-1500's, Spain claimed a vast empire stretching from California to South America. In time, it divided these lands into four provinces, including modern day Mexico and Peru.

GOVERNING THE PROVINCES

Spain was determined to maintain strict control over its empire. To achieve this goal, the Spanish king set up the Council of the Indies to pass laws for the land they had conquered and began to cultivate for the economic wealth of Spain, otherwise known as colonies. The king appointed viceroys, or representatives who ruled in his name, in each province. Lesser officials and advisory councils of Spanish settlers, helped the viceroy rule. The “Council of the Indies” in Spain closely monitored these colonial officials to make sure they did not assume too much authority on their own while in the colonies within the American continents.

SPREADING CHRISTIANITY

To Spain, winning souls for Christianity was as important as gaining land. The Catholic Church worked with the government to convert indigenous, or natives of the American continents, to Christianity. Church leaders often served as royal officials and helped regulate activities of Spanish settlers. As Spain's American empire expanded, Church authority expanded along with it.

Franciscans, Jesuits, and other missionaries baptized thousand of converts into loyal subjects of the Catholic king of Spain. They also introduced European clothing, the Spanish language, and new crafts such as carpentry and locksmithing. Where they could, the Spanish missionaries forcibly imposed European culture over all of the cultures that were indigenous to the American continents.

CONTROLLING TRADE

To make the empire profitable, Spain closely controlled its economic activities, especially trade. The most valuable resources shipped from Spanish-controlled America back to Spain were **silver** and **gold**. Spanish colonists, or Spaniards who worked on the American lands claimed by the Spanish Empire, could export, or send material back to Spain, **only** with Spain. In addition, they could only purchase goods manufactured by the Spanish. Laws forbade the Spanish colonists from trading with other European nations or even with other Spanish colonies.

When sugar cane was introduced into the West Indies and elsewhere, it quickly became a profitable resource. The cane was refined into sugar, molasses and rum. Sugar cane, **had to be grown on plantations**, or large estates run by an owner from the Spanish Empire. In addition, plantations **required** large numbers of workers in order for there to be profit.

THE ENCOMIENDA SYSTEM: FORCED LABOR

At first, Spanish kings granted an “**Encomienda**” to the Spanish **conquistadors** (Spanish explorers conquering land on the America continents). Encomienda was the right to demand labor from Native Americans in particular areas. The conquistadors used this system to force Native Americans to work under the most brutal conditions. Those who resisted were hunted down and killed. Disease, starvation, and cruel treatment caused drastic declines in the Native American population.

The Encomienda system was used in the mines of Peru in the Potosi region. By the 1540's, tons of silver from the Incan Empire territory had been extracted and brought back to the Spanish Empire. The mines were dangerous, as was the process of mining. Native Americans were forced to continue extracting silver from the mines to increase the wealth and power of the Spanish empire, while thousands upon thousands of indigenous people died from the terrible conditions.

DIRECTIONS: Read pages 485 to 488. As you read, fill in the graphic organizer with what you believe to be a governmental strategy, social strategy or economic strategy that the Spanish Empire used to build (and maintain) their empire.

<p align="center"><u>GOVERNMENTAL STRATEGY</u></p> <p align="center">Military, Law administration, Bureaucracy Foreign & domestic politics & diplomacy</p>	<p align="center"><u>SOCIAL STRATEGY</u></p> <p align="center">Cultural appreciation Upholding/removing traditions, rituals, Religious toleration/intolerance, Cultural advancements (arts, sciences), Maintenance of specific class system,</p>	<p align="center"><u>ECONOMIC STRATEGY</u></p> <p align="center">Foreign & domestic networks of trade, Conquest of geographical locations key to access to prosperous resources for trading purposes</p>