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New Spain

The Spaniard conquest was an impartial point in time for both the Indian Natives and the Spaniards. Starting from 1519 when the Spaniards decided to explore North America. Native Indians started from different indigenous groups each tribe was different and had its own way of doing certain routines. The Spaniards would invest in voyages and want to explore other places where they would find gold and wealth. This exploration had impacted both the Spaniards’ and the Natives’ social, economic and political ways of life.

The Spaniards arrived with exploring in Tampa, Florida with the Spanish explorer Alvar Núñez or also known as Cabeza de Vaca. On this exploration they hoped to find a lot of wealth such as gold and goods they could invest and take in. they never thought they would change a tribes or other group’s way of living.

First of all Spaniards changed the natives social methods. Before the Spaniards came the natives were not forced to do free labor nor did they have to adapt to different cultures. Once the Spaniards came they shared and gave the different cultures and traditions, also different ways of running things like socially and economically as well as politically. Socially the natives were open to change when the Spaniards came so they adapted the Spaniards way and welcomed them with open hands. Socially when the Spaniards came they brought diseases with them so the natives started to disappear and die off leaving their homes to the Spaniards. The Indians would end up disappearing in North America just as they had vanished in the Caribbean. Epidemics such as smallpox, starvation, hard labor would and did start to kill off some of the most of the Indians.

The economic stability of XV, XVII, XVIII centuries was quite different and very similar to what happens now in Mexico. The indigenous “believed the land belonged to the community” (131), but once the Spaniards came they started having property owners or conquerors of property which would later create violence. Your richness and wealth would all be determined by how much property lands you have and your harvest because that is what brings in the income. The land would give access to water, wood, and pasture for agricultural needs as well as for livestock which was very vital back then and still now. Governing the land was one of the leading means of torture or punishment the Spaniards used against the natives.

Politically speaking the natives had chiefs and leaders of each other’s tribes. They had one person that would rule and make the rules. Whoever would break or not follow the rules would get tortured or killed. Once the Spaniards came the concept of having a ruler was the same too, governing and being a superior was like being a president, helping and making your community happy. Once the Spaniards came the concept of owning land was added the taxes of property would get paid either with money or the actual harvest. Cortez had been ordered to give borrowed land to his men, as well as native slave labor workers to harvest crops that were essential to the wellbeing of others. The Encomienda is what made this possible in the 16th century but by the 17th century it would start to vanish.

Throughout the centuries there was good and bad things that the Spaniards did when they conquered the land. They gave us the mestizos, brought different cultures together, different customs of living. There were both the pros and cons that they left in the country of Mexico. Until now they have used some of the customs that the Spaniards came with and made in Mexico thanks to the cooperation of the natives as well.