

Reading Quiz 0.1 - INTD290

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1 How to Submit this Assignment Once you answer the questions, take a picture of your work and convert it to a PDF. Submit the PDF to the assignment link on Moodle.

2 Introduction - The Latin American Scientific Theater (Juan Jose Saldana)

1. *The author begins by describing different methods of historical analysis as applied to Latin America, and in particular scientific development there. What is the author's conclusion about the social history of Latin America with respect to science?*

The author concludes that science is “intertwined with other aspects of social and cultural life” and has allowed for “important regional historical events” to occur (pg. 2). Without science, Latin American history would cease to exist and continue evolving.

2. *What is an example of the failure of economic explanations for the development of science given by the author?*

José López Sánchez (Cuba) and Eli Gortari (Mexico) tried to explain that capitalism led to the development of science. However, their efforts failed because “the supposedly productive function of science” they had mentioned in their research did not take place during the time these authors are talking about, in either Cuba or in Mexico (pg. 9).

3. *What is the function of La Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y Tecnología, when was it founded, and what does it publish?*

The function of it was to provide Latin American historiographers with an outlet to conduct research and publish their findings regarding the science in Latin America because it had never truly been done before. It was founded in 1982 and it publishes its journal called *Quipu Revista Latinoamericana de Historia de Las Ciencias y La Tecnología*. Both allowed the growth of the “recognition of science in the region” (pg. 10).

4. *What does the concept of peripheral science, versus central science have to do with Latin America and Europe? What are some examples the author gives in which Latin America was central?*

Peripheral science is associated with Latin America and the concept of central science is associated with Europe. Going back to the simple fact that the world during its scientific revolutions were very eurocentric, meaning that only knowledge gathered from Europe at the time was valued and respected. However some of the examples the author mentions in which Latin America was central include but are not limited to “New Granadan botany and Mexican herbalism, colonial Peruvian mathematics, New Spanish metallurgy, or the fact that Newton and Sigüenza were contemporaries—all... are examples of past scientific excellence” (pg. 16).

3 Chapter 1 - Natural History and Herbal Medicine in Sixteenth-century America (Xavier Lozoya), part I

1. *What does the author have to say about the two versions of the history of scientific thought in Latin America, with regard to the Enlightenment? When did Christopher Columbus land in the*

New World, and what was the origin of the word “Indian?” In the opinion of the author, what will be the future of indigenous history?

The author highlights that within the two versions of scientific thought, one is right and more advanced (the knowledge obtained in Europe) and the other (those of Latin America) are seen as wrong. Christopher Columbus landed in the New World on October 17, 1492. The origin of the word “Indian” comes from Columbus' geographical error in mistakenly landing in the Americas instead of India, hence why he was calling the people of the land Indians which then evolved to them being called indigenous people of the land. In the opinion of the author, the future of indigenous history has “yet to be written [it will consist of a version of history] that does not judge the value of knowledge acquired by any culture, be it foreign or one's own [pg. 30]. He is insinuating that history will not be biased and contain information from ancient and concurrent times.

2. From the viewpoint of the author, what seems to be the definition of the term “ethnohistory?” How is it connected to globalization?

To the author, “Ethnohistory” refers to the study of “primitives” (indigenous people) and how their cultures are “scrutinized” (examined/looked upon) by other people (being the Europeans) (pg. 30). Globalization refers to the changes made within a society due to industrialization and the world attempting to be more connected. The two are connected in the sense that the Europeans sought to globalize the world and become more connected at the expense of diminishing the value of the ethnohistory of Latin America.

3. How was the reconquest of former Spanish territory held by Arabs from North Africa different from the conquest of Latin America with regard to preservation or censorship of knowledge?

The Reconquest of the Christian territories held by Arabs differed from the conquest of Latin America because the Arabs did not suffer a “cultural destruction.” All their informational and cultural sources remained intact and they were still able to hold onto their religious practices and traditions. However in Latin America, few of the customs and traditions practiced among the Natives of the Land survived, and only did so orally.

4. Describe the origin of the myth of the Fountain of Youth. How did this tale arise in both Europe and Latin America? What does it tell you about how people interpret what they see and hear in a foreign land?

The Fountain of Youth is a mythical spring that restores the youth of anyone who drinks or bathes in its waters. The tale has been around for thousands of years. In Europe, the tales of the fountain date back to 1165 from an Ethiopian King that went by Prester John. It was told that soldiers were sent to find the fountain and bathe in it to revive their youth, Alexander the Great's soldiers were some that claimed to become younger and stronger after being submerged in it. In 1513, Ponce de León ventured to find the fountain in the Florida peninsula. He was unsuccessful but the legend of the fountain ceased to exist. I think this myth helps shed light on how humans possess a strong sense of curiosity in discovering the unknown and will go to great lengths to discover such foreign lands. (pg. 35)

5. Upon hearing of the condors from indigenous people, European colonials thought the description matched which animal? Why?

European colonials thought the description of the condor matched the description of a griffin because of their size, long talons, and large wing-span.