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## 2 Introduction - The Latin American Scientific Theater (Juan José Saldaña)

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 explains that the social history of science in latin America is important because helps us understand the behavior/nature of the scientists "...that created, developed or incorporated concepts/theories in a particular social context". Also, it is important to study social history of science because it gives us a better understanding of the regional geography and general aspects of society.

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

The author explains that if we accept Lopez Sanchez and Gotari's theoretical model, we would have to say that there was no science in Latin America. The author also explains that this adds to eurocentrism, which is a negative thing.

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?

*It was founded in 1982 and it published the journal Revista Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y la Tecnología in 1984. This journal helped grow professional in science and brought international recognition to the history of science in the region.*

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*?

European science was more peripheral science because they existed on the outside of Latin America, but their science spread to Latin American regions. The author explains that this category of science originated in the dependency theory "... and dealt with the structural/asymmetrical relationship between the industrialized and underdeveloped country". However, there were times that latin American science was central. For example, new Granadan botany and mexican herbalism, colonial peruvian math, and new Spanish metallurgy.

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





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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 says that the first version is an interpretation of the history of science from the Enlightenment that makes us believe we are moderns. The 2nd version has not been written yet, but will not judge the value of knowledge gained by any culture. Columbus landed in the New World on October 17, 1492 and when he landed there, he saw indigenous people. His lack of geographical knowledge and his knowledge of the Spanish language, caused the custom of using "Indian" and "Indigenous" as synonyms. According to the author, indigenous history will be considered scientific knowledge.

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

From the author's viewpoint, ethnohistory seems to scrutinize the lives of the "primitives" through the use of things like books written by the Spaniards on the knowledge of indigenous people. This is connected to globalization because there is a foreign influence involved and writing their history. The Spaniards are also wiping out the indigenous history and creating a new one influenced by the Spaniards.

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 Arabs did not face a total destruction of all their informational and cultural sources. Latin America, however, had all of their knowledge and culture destroyed. The very few things that were practices that survived were kept orally. The Spaniards wanted to wipe out their culture and start a new one that better fit Spanish culture.

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*?

This myth arose because it was believed that indigenous people lived longer lives and the Europeans wanted to understand why. There were texts written that tried to explain why by saying they eat special things like locusts and then the fountain. This illustrates that when people don't understand a culture, they tend to exaggerate the truth. They also treat the foreigners as the "others" and try to describe them as these magical creature who are different.

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

The European colonists thought it matched the griffins because they are both described as eating human flesh and being able to carry a human/cow with their talons through the air.

