

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 Jos e Saldan a)

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 social history of Latin America in respect to science has to do with merging the "central" science of Europe with science that was peripheral (the science of indigenous people of Latin America). Because the colonists destroyed a lot of the materials and people who preserved knowledge of science in indigenous Latin America, the history of science is viewed from 2 perspectives, the perspective of western dominant cultures that is basically the history of scientific events in dominant western culture and the other perspective that will dive deeper into the indigenous knowledge of Latin Americans.

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

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

It was founded in 1982, and La Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y Tecnolog a, is a society that encouraged Latin American historians and scientists to conduct research on their scientific past at a local or regional level. The reason for this society to exist is to develop science of the

Latin America by studying the indigenous knowledge of science in Latin America and merging it with the science of dominant western science.

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*

Central science was considered the science of Europe, since they had more power and were considered a modern society compared to the indigenous people of Latin America. But the truth is that the science of Latin America had offered new specific facets for historical study. For example, the

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?

There are 2 versions of history of scientific thought in Latin America, one is written by the dominant western cultures that colonized the lands, and the other version is yet to be written, since it values all the cultural knowledge that indigenous people of Latin America possessed and views science as a “subject to fashion”. Columbus named the land “Indian” in 1492. The word Indian came to be used because Christopher Columbus repeatedly expressed the mistaken belief that he had reached the shores of South Asia.

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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?

Study of development of cultures, study of cultures and indigenous peoples customs. Globalization has happened in Latin America in 16th century and was a process of massive transculturation. Same is happening in 19th century, that is why it is important to study ethnohistory

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 Latin America have destroyed all the traces of religious, scientific and cultural information that the indigenous people of Latin America preserved in paintings, cities and art. The soldiers described their actions as carrying the last crusade of Christianity by killing the “moors”

The reconquest of former Spanish territory held by Arabs was different, it didn't lead to the destruction of informational and cultural sources

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

When travelers returned from west Indian lands back to Europe, their stories about the new land made them famous and were always in demand. The famous authors like Pliny and the Elder have described the land full of giants, magical fountains, thousand-headed monsters and etc. Ponce de Leon discovered that there is a belief that there is a magic fountain in Florida that can turn old to young, called “fountain of youth”. It coincided with old books of Europe and really have made him believe in it’s existence. I think the stories like “fountain of youth” have made people more curious about the new land and also granted the story-tellers with fame.

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6. Upon hearing of the condors from indigenous people, European colonials thought the description matched which animal? – They thought it was griffin, the mythological creature that was giant and could kill people and protected gold.

