

Reading quiz #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's conclusion about the social history of Latin America is overall quite optimistic as he exclaims it helps us develop and understand certain social groups and the nature of them with regard to the time as well as the context of their motives. He also goes into depth about the effect of their motives that tie into their culture, society, beliefs, and all that are intertwined with Europe and the Americas and as a result make change within Latin America.

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

With the influence of European culture and sciences,

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 La Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y Tecnología was to spur the growth and the development of the history of sciences in that area it was developed in as well as to bring international recognition to it going forward. It was founded in Puebla, Mexico in 1982 and published or reinforced amateur history of Mexico supported by sciences as well as new and alternative actions.

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?

The concept of peripheral science has to do with science that has been learned elsewhere and is being used by Latin America. Central science has to do with sciences that are respectfully discovered by certain regions of the world for example Mexican Herbalism, Peruvian colonial mathematics, and much more where concepts of science originated from.

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?

- With regard to the enlightenment, the author had emphasized two ways of analyzing the history of Latin America, one from a native perspective and the other from an immigrant's perspective. But despite the time elapsed and attempts to create syncretism, the differences between the two becomes more overbearing than syncretism itself especially with their eurocentric approach. As Columbus arrived on October 17, 1492, he began this eurocentric outlook that would forever define their status over the natives that they called indians which Columbus associated them with indigenous. In the opinion of the author, the future of indigenous history is preserved along with their knowledge orally rather than the dominant western culture that would be preserved in language and ink.
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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?
 - The definition of ethnohistory based on its use in the authors book seems to refer to the history of ethnic natives rather than those who within circumstances of Europe coming westward are moving toward the west. It is connected to globalization because since the Europeans are beginning to move westward due to Columbus, the two cultures, societies, and regions will begin to clash with one another.
 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?
 - It was different in the sense that within the reconquest, they left nothing behind of the people who previously occupied their land by burning it and getting rid of anything that represented them. While the conquest of Latin America was not nearly as destructive which is an understatement with regards to their sciences, values, etc of the people.
 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 origin was a result of Alexander the Great's soldiers drinking and standing within from a fountain and believing that the liquid restored vigor to the elderly. Ponce de Leon and people alongside him sought to find this place but failed and returned to Spain. I believe that people who hear this story would be more interested in endeavours to work underneath conquistadors for the profit of finding said location.
 5. Upon hearing of the condors from indigenous people, European colonials thought the description matched which animal? Why?
 - European colonials thought it matched a vulture or griffin, which was a mythical creature that resemble a horse and an eagle combined

