

Reading Quiz 0.2.1

Hispanic America's Historical Dynamics

1.) a) México:

Trade groups:

Mexico City (1794)

Guadalajara and Veracruz (1795)

Research institutes:

Mining (1792)

Botany (1788)

The arts (1785)

b.) Perú:

Trade groups:

Lima (1618)

Research Institutes:

(Chem/metallurgical Lab. (1792)

↳ In Lima sponsored by Mining Tribunal

c.) Venezuela (Caracas):

Trade groups:

Caracas (1793)

Research Institutes:

Mathematics Academy (1760)

↳ supported by Business Consulate

d.) Guatemala:

Trade groups:

(1793)

Research Institutes:

Botanical Garden (1796)

↙ Drawing and Mathematics (1797)

Both supported by Economic Society of Friends of the Country.

Modern Scientific Culture

- 1.) Empiricism is arguably the most significant impact of the Enlightenment on modern world development. The advent of empirical traditions, and relying upon direct observation of the senses and scientific instruments presented a new basis for scientific theory that opposed the aging tradition of scholasticism. The author notes that this progression away from scholastic tradition led to new hypotheses and concepts. Undoubtedly, the numerous advancements made in the realm of "modern science" are largely due to the breaking away from the stagnant tradition of revering scholastic authority in favor of methods based on observation, experimentation, and mathematical modeling.

Hispanic American Scientific Culture

- 1.) Private libraries were significant during the Enlightenment period in Hispanic America because of the fact that at the time when was printed, disseminated, and taught in regions under colonial control was largely censored in order to ensure no information that contradicted papal, monarchical, or scholastic authority was being spread. The existence of extensive private collections and the demand for texts which the colonial government was trying to restrict access to shows that there was a growing scientific culture of evident existence in the Americas during the time period which yearned for the knowledge held by the works of Enlightenment thinkers and yearned to create their own knowledge. Similarly, we see evidence of scientific interest of private citizens as opposed to nationally supported scientific interest in the case of scientific journals like the scientific publications of José Antonio Alzate (publications c. 1768-1795) in New Spain and the foundation of technical schools throughout Latin America with the support of miners, merchants, and organizations of private citizens.

2) Numerous scientific journals run by private individuals came into being during the latter 1700s in Latin America. Noted as the first "properly scientific" by our text was Diario Literario de México in 1768 published by José Antonio Alzate covering literature, physics and mathematics, and useful sciences with the intention of discussing as the topics pertained to local needs, economic and otherwise. Another newspaper published in Mexico in 1772 by José Bartolache covered a range of topics including physics but is notable for its inclusion of medicine.

Many similar examples came about including, in Lima, Mercurio Peruano (1791), in Havana, Papel Periódico de La Habana (1790) among others in other countries, all with the similar goal of spreading new ideas corresponding with Enlightenment science to the general public.

3.) In the late 1700s, European scientists with the support of the Spanish government attempted to introduce what they thought was a new and more effective method of processing silver to the Latin American colonies. The "Born" method" was, as José Alzate pointed out, already known by those living in America since the 17th century, meaning that what the Europeans thought they were bringing was in fact not new. Creoles and mestizos opposed the reforms because of the direct impact they were to have on them, and in this instance demonstrated the superiority of the "Patio Process" which was discovered by a Spaniard in Pachuca Mexico in the 16th century. This shows, significantly, that scientific work was being done in Latin America, in a sense independently from Europe.