

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 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 believes that there are little to no historical documentations that really do Latin American science history justice. It wasn't collected and analyzed in a social and cultural context, without which leads to a distorted view of their societies and undermines the science's significance.

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

Accepting and using economism as it is to explain Latin American science will not work. It takes on a Eurocentric view of financial incentive, and the role money plays in politics, and applies it to a completely different culture.

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?

La Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y Tecnología (Latin American Society for the History of Sciences and Technology) was founded in 1982, and published a journal 2 years later. This added professionalism and international recognition to the discipline.

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*?

Latin American science has mostly existed in the periphery, since in the past historians' documentation of it has been vague and showed lack of understanding. European science was central and thought to be better (at the time). Latin America did however make significant scientific achievements that occasionally were accepted in Europe.

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 is the version from the Latin Americans preserving their culture and there is the version from the one who imposed power. Christopher Columbus landed in 1492, and thought he had reached the Indies, so he called the people Indians. So far, most of the indigenous has been preserved orally, and the author thinks the future is carefully, thoughtful writing from the Latin American Perspective.

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

Ethnohistory means the history about or from the indigenous viewpoint. For a long time, and even still today, indigenous cultures, foods, medicines, etc. have been viewed as a foreign, exotic product and globalization is mostly seen from just one point of view.

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?

Cities were destroyed in the violent and destructive, and they destroyed as much knowledge as they could, having been gathered for millenia. Only the survivors were able to pass down the information that did last 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 myth about a magical stream or body of water that will restore the strength of youth in those who bathe in it. The tale traveled from Latin America to Europe, and is a good example about legends and myths are believed when they come from a world of unknown. So much so that people will go looking for them.

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

A griffin (half lion, half bird), because it was so large, and could pick up whole cows in its talons.