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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's conclusion about the social history of Latin America with respect to science is that mainly due to Eurocentrism; Latin America was overlooked for the better part of history. This is proven on page nine: "Historians of European science who regularay avoided speaking of Latin American science..."(9 Saldaña). Another important point the author made is that until the end of the 19th century, that Latin America was not considered to be a part of conventional scientific development.

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

An example of the failure of economic explanations for the development of science given by the author is, the relationship between underdeveloped countries and industrialized countries. An example of this would be on page sixteen where Saldaña explains one of the main reason why productivity was low: "When applied to science, the concept of asymmetry was used to compare underdeveloped countries with those considered as knowledge-producing centers and owners of scientific infrastructure, communities, and a research tradition". (16 Saldaña). This quote proves that because of the lack of economic explanation, science in Latin America was not as productive because they had less money than industrialized countries which explains why they were seen inferior in scientific development.

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?

The function of La Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y Tecnología what it was founded was to help “spur the growth in the 1980s of mature approaches to making the discipline professional and to bringing international recognition to the history of science in the region” (10 Saldaña). La Sociedad Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y Tecnología publishes scientific findings throughout Latin America.

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?

The concept of peripheral science versus central science related to Latin America and Europe simply due to the fact that before Latin America has any relationship with Europe, Latin American science was peripheral, however since the 16th century there have been many instances where Latin American science has been central. Some examples of Latin American science being central are: New Granadan botany, Peruvian mathematics, Mexican herbalism, and New Spanish metallurgy. (referenced pg. 16).

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?

The author acknowledges the two versions of the history of scientific thought in Latin America with regard to the Enlightenment by explaining them individually. The first version favors the dominant Western cultures that were mostly European. The second is described as “yet to be written” that will have no judgement on the value of the knowledge one culture has. Christopher Columbus landed in the New World on Wednesday October 17, 1492. The origin of the word “Indian” comes from the way of cutting and eating food, understanding and curing disease, relating to nature, and measuring time on the Latin America

Continent. In the opinion of the author, the future of indigenous history will have no limits, meaning that there will be no such thing as intellectual colonialism and Latin America will be recognized for actually having an insightful input in the world of science.

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 viewpoint of the author, the definition of the term “ethnohistory” is the indigenous culture history.

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 former Spanish territory held by Arabs from North Africa was different from the conquest of Latin America with regard to the preservation/censorship of knowledge by it not resulting in the destruction of their culture or their religious antagonism.

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 of the myth of the Fountain of Youth came from Once de León who discovered the myth by hearing it from the Carib and Lucayo Indians of America, who believed that there was a fountain river that made the aged young again. This myth tells us that when people hear or see anything ‘fountain’ they take it quite literally.

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

Upon hearing of the condors from indigenous people, European colonials thought the description matched the Griffin. The reason for this is because condors are massive and can very possibly carry a human with their talons, which matches the description of the griffin.

