

Reading Quiz 0.2 - INTD290 ... Part I

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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 Hispanic America's Historical Dynamics (6 pages)

1. The author lays out the central argument of the chapter in this section, which is the connection between merchant guilds, the domestic economy, and the constitution of enlightenment institutions. Please list some of the institutions, like colleges and botanical gardens (think of these as research institutes), mining guilds and corporations, etc. Give the dates, organized by country below:

(a) Mexico:

In Mexico, for example, twenty-seven million pesos' worth of gold and silver coins were minted in 1800, compared with four million coined in 1700. (pg 52)

(b) Peru:

In New Spain and Peru, in the 1780s, mine owners organized into bodies that had their own tribu- nals, and merchants organized trade groups. Trade groups were created in all important Hispanic American cities at a rapid rate because of trade liberalization. (pg 53)

(c) Venezuela (Caracas):

In Caracas, the Academia de Matemáticas (Mathemat- ics Academy, founded in 1760) was supported by the business consulate.

(d) Guatemala:

In Guatemala, the Jardín Botánico (Botanical Garden, established in 1796) and the drawing and mathematics schools (in 1797) were set up by the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País (Economic Society of Friends of the Country). (pg 54)

3 Modern Scientific Culture (3 pages)

1. Discuss the significance of empiricism, or the use of observations from instruments, on scientific culture. How was this different from Scholasticism? (Feel free to look up the definitions of these terms).

Empiricism views concepts are created through one's sensory experience by observation and experimentation procedures. Scholasticism brings reason to support faith and strengthens the religious life.

4 Hispanic American Scientific Culture (12 pages)

1. Notice the discussion of Scientific Libraries. Discuss the significance of the formation of private scientific libraries in Enlightenment period Hispanic America. What does the existence of these collections of new, modern books tell us about scientific culture at the time? Why were these books not in common libraries? What are a few other examples of the birth of modern scientific culture that more private than public or nationalized?

The significance of the formation of private scientific libraries in the Enlightenment period Hispanic America contains survived documents pertaining to Inquisitorial activities represents the expression of the concerns of Hispanic Americans who supported Enlightenment ideals, of the era's ideological debates, and of the scientific, technical, and cultural changes in the Americas. "Private libraries were the main indicator of the ever-wider circulation of books and, simultaneously, the reflection and the cause of the ideological changes taking place in the Americas." (pg 59). Common libraries only pertained traditional scientific knowledge and lacked modern scientific texts with the works of Enlightenment philosophers. Censorship was established to keep these books out of public libraries, but was impossible to control as they find ways such as printing whole books of false doctrines with titles belonging to Catholic authors of well-known authority. An example is José Ignacio Bartolache. "The contents of his library allow us to observe that, for Creoles who espoused Enlightenment ideals, modern scientific culture—in addition to traditional culture (i.e., religion, law, literature, and so on)—occupied an important place in their intellectual formation. If we add to this the scientific instruments Bartolache possessed (among them, microscope, hydrometer, magnifying glass, and thermometer), it is clear that his interest in the new science was both theoretical and practical." (pg 61).

2. Notice the discussion of Scientific and Technical Journals. Give several examples of scientific and technical journals emerging in the culture. When were they created and what did they cover?

Scientific and Technical Journals were efforts to popularize science for those that believed in the Enlightenment. These journals covered a vast amount of science related subjects.

"The first properly scientific magazine of the American Enlightenment, *Diario Literario de México* (Literary Magazine of Mexico, established in 1768), was published by a citizen of New Spain, José Antonio Alzate y Ramírez." (pg 63).

"around 1787, a group of scholars concerned with the cultivation of "enlightenment" in their homeland met at the Academia Filarmónica (Philharmonic Academy) in Lima; they later created the Sociedad de Amantes del País (Society of Lovers of the Country). The members of this group, besides holding meetings and discussions, decided to publish a magazine entitled *Mercurio Peruano*, whose editor was Jacinto Calero. The first issue appeared on January 2, 1791." (pg 65).

"The following scientific and technical magazines were published before the end of the eighteenth century because of the initiative and support of economic societies of friends of the country: *Primicias de la Cultura de Quito* (First Fruits of the Culture of Quito, 1791); *Memorias de la Sociedad Económica* (Havana) (Memoirs of the Economic Society, 1793); *La Gaceta de Guatemala* (The Guatemala Gazette), which started up again in 1797 with the help of the Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País (Economic

Society of Friends of the Country); and in 1801, the *Telégrafo Mercantil, Rural, Político-Económico e Historiográfico del Río de la Plata* (Mer- cantile, Rural, Politico-Economic, and Historiographic Telegraph of Rio de la Plata).” (pg 65).

3. What was the significance of the debate over mining methods? Who eventually won the debate and why?

“Creoles who supported Enlightenment ideals proposed or introduced the reforms they deemed appropriate for the reality they knew directly. In so doing, several times they had to oppose the Spanish government’s authoritarian initiatives and show that their viewpoints were correct or even superior. In Mexico, for instance, Alzate presented suggestions in his magazines for improving the extraction of minerals and water from mines, for ventilating mines, for ginning cotton, for cultivating and processing cochineal.” (pg 68)