

# Reading Quiz 0.1 - INTD290

Dr. Jordan Hanson - Whittier College Dept. of Physics and Astronomy

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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?

According to the author in Latin America there is no separation between the rise of science/the culture of science and the social history/culture of the Americas. This history is directly linked to the culture and identity of that region, which we watch as science is introduced and becomes an integral part of the region and the history. The need to write the history of science down to actually create the social history that other places have is incredibly important for a region that's history is so deeply ingrained with science.

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

The author writes a lot about how economic development was at the forefront of the adoption of science in the 20th century. They began scientific projects to help develop both the international scientific community and also the Americas economy. In some European's opinion the drive for economic growth while using science as their method, is a reason they believe Latin America did not actually develop. This economic growth as the forefront of this development actually stunted a true 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?

Their function was to help the discipline of science history become more professional and to bring international recognition to the history of science in the area, 1982, Quipu, Revista Latinoamericana de Historia de las Ciencias y la Tecnología which was published in 1984

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*?

Central science means that it was central in the European scientific development, at times Latin American science was "central" to European scientific discoveries either helping or focused in on they were focused on. Peripheral science is defined in a way that Latin American scientists were somewhat doing their own thing, unfocused from what Europeans were doing and making their own discoveries. "New Granadan botany and Mexican herbalism, colonial Peruvian mathematics, New Spanish metallurgy, or the fact that Newton and Sigüenza were contemporaries" were examples of Latin America being central.

## 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 written version by Western culture, the culture that called indigenous people "Indians" and called them "savages". This history follow the western story almost step by step, and always has the indigenous people reading and understanding the European view of science. Universal knowledge is something that Europeans created and lumped Latin America into in this version of history, it is something that was born after the Enlightenment and basically the theory is that now, after the 20th century is the modern day. Columbus landed in the New World in 1492 and the term Indian came from his incredibly skewed view of the world, in which when he landed in the "new world" he thought it was India, thus presuming that the people there were Indian. Because this history is so dominant the author says that the other version has yet to be written, as oral storytelling was the way that information was taught in indigenous culture. Once "modern" scientists realize that science is also a victim to fashion, indigenous history and science may become more popular and see as actual science rather than looked down upon.

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

Ethnohistory is a term used to define a method of analysis of indigenous culture and scientific knowledge. It is seen in the analysis of African, Asian, and American continents and in the study of the indigenous cultures of those areas. Studying indigenous culture and scientific knowledge helps connect their findings to ours and each area's findings and knowledge can help in an overall goal of globalization.

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?

In Latin America the Christianization of the area led to the rejection of all past knowledge, destroying their history culturally and scientifically, anything that survived was passed down through oral transmission. In North Africa the reconquest did not mean the erasure of any culture or religious sources.

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*?

In Europe the Fountain of Youth stemmed from a myth in Ethiopia, and it was used to recruit people for the Third Crusade. That if they found the fountain they would be young again and the way to find it was to conquer in the name of Christianity. In Latin America it came from a conquistador who believed he could find it in Florida, so as the myth was written down and shared the story of it was reborn in America. Europeans used a story from Africa to justify and motivate the Crusades, in Latin America the story mainly stemmed from other myths that then the conquistadors assumed that they could find the Fountain of Youth in the seven cities of Cibola.

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

Europeans believed that the condors were mighty griffins, a mythological bird creature, the stories that the colonials shared were of these almost fantastical beasts that could swoop down and steal the indigenous people away thus linking these birds to griffins.