For the most part, this week’s reading didn’t have much of anything surprising for me. Even though we had extensively covered diseases in the new world several times before, it was not in any extensive amount or in depth. Throughout the reading it put the extent of the damage into better perspective and was appalling to say the least.

The most surprising topic to me was the effect that deforestation had on Uyumbicho. I would expect the natives to be upset about losing a beautiful natural resource but never thought that by chopping trees down in a disorderly manner it would cause such an upset. To me it seemed that the Indians were greedily expanding their land with disregard to the others around. The book said that when the forest was being surveyed they found huge new farmlands, burning mountainsides, and entire forests slashed. It is understandable that the cabildo were upset, especially since the city relied on them. The way they handled the issue was also interesting to me. They did everything from burn their houses and evict the Indians to threaten public whipping if they return and impose fines on them and took what little they had, which I found highly ironic as they were for the most part peasants!

Last on the list of interesting and questionable bits of information was the murder in Chapter 6 of Boyer and Spurling. When first reading the passage I couldn’t believe that Fernando would actually kill his wife and thought he walked in after hearing the commotion, similar to his neighbor. What awestruck me was that he killed a previous wife in Quito, and confessed to this murder too! Even more to my surprise the court proceeding turned into one on murder, witchcraft, adultery, and besurmerching of honor. I really only think murder and adultery are the velid arguments as getting honor back by killing your wife makes no sense. Lastly, I found it interesting that he ended up getting payments for his lost honor, which given the circumstances he should have been punished further for the murder and previous one too!