Quang Huynh

**Columbian Exchange** – The Columbian Exchange was the exchange of animals, technologies, diseases, and plants between the landmasses. This exchange occurred when Christopher Columbus had discovered the Americas and with his voyage, he exchanged many things with the Native Americans.

**Epidemics** – In 1518, smallpox had arrived in the Caribbean. This resulted in more than half of the Americans from Mexico and Central America. Furthermore, more diseases such as measles, diphtheria, typhus, influenza, and the pulmonary plague. More diseases like malaria and the yellow fever would come to haunt the Americans later, and these epidemics made the Americans’ population to decrease very fast.

**Demographic changes** – Due to the huge amount of deaths caused by the arrival of the Europeans, they were quickly outnumbered by the European and African slaves.

**Spanish America** – Spanish America had tried to make a system similar to their homeland. They had built a big empire that owned land from Mexico and all the way to Argentina.

**Portuguese Brazil** – They had run things similar to how Spain did. They had wanted things to be close to their homeland. They had colonized the Brazilian coasts and made outposts for trading and producing materials from the slaves and natives.

**Role of the Catholic Church in the Americas** – The Catholic Church had wanted to spread in the Americas in hopes of converting as many people as possible to become a Christian. The new colonial empires had this idea of a conquest to claim as much land as possible for the Catholic Church.

**Bartolome de Las Casas** – He was the first Bishop of Chiapas in Southern Mexico. He was also a historian and devoted his life to protecting the Natives and had passed numerous laws that stopped people from exploiting their labor.

**Colonial Labor Systems** – The Colonial Labor Systems were based on producing as much things as possible for the least amount of money. People often had slaves working in every harsh conditions for no pay so they can make profit.

**Encomienda System** – A system that grants people with access to cheap labor that they could use to produce anything that are profitable. As long as they converted to Chrisianity.

**Slavery and the Slave Trade (504)** - Due to the lack of labor in the Americas because of the amount of deaths caused by the plague, the Europeans were seeking to purchase African slaves for cheap labor. This would lead to millions of Africans being bought and shipped to the New World for harsh work.

**Colonial Social Structure –**

**Peninsulares – They were ranked the highest. Born in Spain and were the only people who held office.**

**Creoles – Spaniards who were born in Latin America and they cannot hold office.**

**Mestizo – They were a mixed-race of Spanish and European. These were the middle class and people looked at them as illegitimate.**

**Mulatto – People that were a mixed-race of European and African descent. The mulattos made up some of the population and were the middle class.**

**Natives – They were the majority of the population and were in very harsh conditions. They were not treated as well because they had little to no use to the economy.**

**African Slaves – They were forced to do very jarring tasks for little amounts of food. These slaves were looked down on.**

1-   Make a T-Chart showing the positive and negative political, social & economic effects of exploration and colonization in the Americas (think about both the European and Native perspectives)

Pros:

**Political: Spain gained power and new land.**

**Social: Christianity spread, and the newcomers benefitted.**

**Economic: Slaves provided free work, cheap trades.**

Cons:

**Political: Empires were now taken over by Spain.**

**Social: Disease had killed off many people, people were taken to become slaves.**

**Economic: Some people were not gaining profit from trades.**