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### *Harvest of Empire* Chapter 1 Summary

Juan Gonzalez, in the chapter “Conquerors and Victims: The Image of America Forms (1500-1800)” of *Harvest of Empire*, addresses two major groups, the Anglo-Saxon and Spanish-Latin people, and their roots in the colonization of America. Specifically, he argues that distinctions in Latin American and Anglo American cultures emerged from differences in their respective histories of colonialism. For example, he states, “scholars have documented how the Iroquois influenced the democratic ideas of our own Founding Fathers. This country’s fierce devotion to individual rights, insists, historian Felix Cohen, has its roots in Iroquois thoughts” (Gonzalez 25). He brings attention to Native American influence on English colonialism in the context of how the Iroquois’ democratic government was inspiration for the Anglo Americans’ government in the future. Gonzalez also expresses how radical differences in methods used regarding aspects of colonization (subjugation, slavery, race, economic/political systems) between the two groups led to differences in culture, in terms of beliefs. He argues that “Latin America became a land of social inclusion and political exclusion. English America welcomed all political and religious views but remained deeply intolerant in its social and racial attitudes” (Gonzalez 26). He insists these differences in identities of the two groups are a direct result of how differently the English and Spanish chose to colonize America—specifically the Spanish allowing more freedom to colored people (Africans and indigenous people) and the English allowing different faiths to coexist (many colonies with all different religions). In sum, Gonzalez’s view is that the Latin American and Anglo American groups are distinct today because of English and Spanish differences in colonial history.

