

## Lecture 1: *Colonization, Conquest, and Cultural Collisions Part I*

### **Native American Societies**

- 15,000 to 40,000 years ago
  - Along a piece of land called Beringia
- 1492 Population is estimated to have been 2 to 10 million
- Complex societies: Trade, Culture, and Politics
  - Ex.
  - Diaz and Tenochtitlan -> Capital of Aztec Empire,
  - Cahokia -> Native A. society that existed in what is now St. Louis
- Widespread diversity

### Summary

There were complex societies well before Columbus came to the Americas. Native A. are more complex however covering History 200 in 10 weeks people must be put into groups such as Native A.

### **Common Characteristics of Native Americans**

- Identity Through immediate social group
  - Native A. were not joined as a nation; thus, their identity is through immediate groups surrounding them.
    - This includes Family Lines, Blood Lines, and even a language shared among a group.
    - Not through NATIONS as seen in Spain, and European countries
- Localism and Spirituality
  - Stays w/ objects -> Local Faith
  - Travels everywhere -> Universal Faith
- Land as common resource
  - The earth owns us, and we do not own the earth mentality
    - Did not believe one person could own land and cultivate it for themselves because a piece of paper said that they “own” it.
    - Civilized = people who owned land
- Gender Relations
  - Matrilineal – Traced back names to mothers as opposed to Europeans Patrilineal society
  - Women had many roles in society unlike in Europe
  - Premarital sex and divorce were not as taboo as it was in Europe

### Summary

Europeans viewed Native A. as heretics since they were worshiping false gods in their eyes.

Animism – Everything in the natural world is imbued with a spiritual force

- Leads people to believe Native A. are polytheistic
- Europeans saw difference as sign of inferiority

Europeans saw all these differences between them and instead of embracing or at least acknowledging that they live different casted them as inferior and uncivilized.

### **Cultural Conflicts**

- Not necessarily antithetical to Europeans
- Europeans constructed argument in a body of writing known as the “Discourse of Civilization”
  - This is used to convince to Europeans that their expansion was justified.

### Summary

Europeans started to justify their expansion in arguments rooted in religion -> **Hinged on division rooted in religion**

Christians = civil

Non-Christians = uncivil

Barometer shifts from religion to skin color. This shift also goes from permeable (conversion to Christianity) to something that you cannot change which is skin color.

Europeans were like Native A. but chose not to look at those similarities and only looked at the differences.

### ***Ecological Imperialism***

- Coupled w/ cultural divisions
  - Comes down to ecological factors and most importantly pathogens
    - Natives A. died from exposure because they were vulnerable and not immune from these pathogens that the Europeans brought with them.
- Pathogens
  - ♦ “beneficiaries of catastrophes”
  - ♦ American Holocaust
    - Not fair to use because Europeans did not pre plan their extermination of Native A. through use of pathogens
- Animals
  - Were introduced into ecology and disrupted it when Europeans brought animals such as horses
- Technologies
  - Swords and guns but argument is inadequate now and obscures argument for pathogens
    - Eurocentric Argument
  - Most of these inventions were Chinese based and Europeans merely had access to these technologies.
- Columbian Exchange
  - Exchange crops and animals and led Europeans to have access to crops, animals, etc... Which made their respective countries better off and more successful.

### Summary

Most important historical factors to explain European success to conquer Native A. societies were ecological and biological

This is known as Eco. Imper.

Pathogens affected Natives A. more so than anything

This includes animals, diseases, crops, that disrupted the ecology.

### ***Origins of Spanish Empire***

Able to identify, compare, and contrast 3 European powers discussed in lecture. (FRENCH, ENGLISH, SPANISH)

1. Spanish Empire
    - “gold, glory, and god”
- Religion and state fused and complimentary
    - Reconquista of 1492
      - King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella reclaimed Spain after 700 years of Muslim Moor rule (711 – 1492)
    - Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)
      - Portugal gets ½

- Spain gets ½
- Protestantism
  - Threatens catholic way of life and encourages Spain to spread Christianity even more

### Summary

After the Treaty of Tordesillas Spain's goal was to convert Native A. to gain favor of the Pope

Portuguese Empire

Spanish Empire

Protestantism starts as a protest and gains popularity in the 1500's

Conversion created many rebellions, and this made Spain vulnerable.

### ***Qualities of Spanish Empire***

- Huge – Rise of Local Elites
  - Wealthy loyal elites that enforce laws of Spanish Empire
    - Elites form their own agenda and leads to rebellions
- Attractive Pull Factors
  - Gold, Silver
- Mineral Wealth and Agriculture
- Urban, Large Cities
  - Very asymmetrical
    - Located at central areas where gold and silver were plentiful
- No African Slaves, Indians as Forced Laborers
  - IMPORTANT FOR CONTRASTING ENGLISH AND SPAIN
    - Spanish tended to bring African-Slaves to Caribbean instead of the mainland.
- Intermarriage, Large Mestizo (mixed) Population -> unique to Spanish Empire

### Summary

The size of the Spanish Empire led to its demise because it was hard for the King to control the land that was so far away.

### ***Pueblo Revolt of 1680***

- Santa Fe established in 1610
- Small, vulnerable population
- Widespread violence and intimidation
- 1675 Pop'e publicly whipped
- 1675 Pop'e leads rebellion, expels Spanish
  - 2,000 dead colonists
- 1692 Spain retakes Santa Fe

### Summary

Spanish used terror and intimidation to force them into obedience upon conversion

1675 - Spanish took leader Pop'e and publicly whipped him to demonstrate superiority

1692 – Take Santa Fe but do not employ intimidation tactics and co-exist