

IB American History  
Fall 2011  
Exam Study Guide

Terms

1. The **Mayans** were a native American civilization based in the Yucatan Peninsula area. They had an economy based on corn and were advanced in science and art. They were in a civil war when the Spanish arrived, making Spanish victory easy.
2. The **Aztecs** were the last civilization in Mexico city before the Spanish arrived. They ran an empire based on fear with a tribute system and extensive trading system. Because the empire was based on fear, they were more vulnerable to the Spanish because of their numerous enemies.
3. **La Malinche** was a guide for Cortés. From unknown origins (most likely noble), she bore Cortés's children. Her image changed over the years, from a virtuous woman to a Spanish serpent to a symbol of selling out to the rape of Mexico.
4. **Hapsburg** was the French dynasty that took over Spanish rule during the period of conquest. They wanted to exploit the New World more so than their predecessors.
5. **Charles V**, from Belgium, was the first Habsburg ruler of Spain, succeeding Ferdinand and Isabella. He valued money over all else in the conquest of the New World.
6. The **Reconquista** was the period in Spanish history in which the Moors were eradicated from Spain. Taking away power from the nobility, it unified Spain. During this period, the *hidalgo* personality was developed.
7. **Encomienda** was a region owned by conquistadors on which natives worked. It was a ready-made tribute system and made it easy for the Spanish to control the land (with the help of the *caciques*). However, it was disliked by the crown and the Indians could not keep up with the system.
8. A **hidalgo** was a noble in Spain. Ferdinand and Isabella sought to weaken the *hidalgos*. As their personality developed during the Reconquista, they became more zealous Catholics, resented foreigners, and favored soldiers.
9. **Hacienda** was a system of large land holding of elite *hacendados*. The area was supposed to be economically self sufficient and trade with local markets for everything except luxuries.
10. **Repartimiento** was a temporary allotment of indigenous workers for a given task. Replacing *encomienda*, it was supposed to ensure fair payment and satisfactory working conditions to the indigenous. In practice, however, the system was abused, as planters and miners bribed royal officials.
11. **Caciques** were native nobles. The Spanish used them to control the people under the *encomienda* system. They and their sons were most compelled to convert to Catholicism.
12. **Syncretism** was the fusion of Catholic and native beliefs. The Mayans in the Yucatan peninsula were brutally punished for practicing syncretism.
13. **Tenochtitlan** was an Aztec city located in the center of Lake Texcoco. Made of chinampas, its strategic location allowed it to easily be defended with removable bridges. It became the capital of the Aztec Empire in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
14. A **conquistador** was a Spanish conqueror that sought riches and spread Catholicism in the New World. Hernán Cortés was a famous conquistador.
15. **Hernán Cortés** was a Spanish conquistador. He was leader of the Spaniards that defeated the Aztecs. The Spanish Crown became mad at him because he established a feudalistic system that gave large tracts of land along the natives that lived on them to his subordinate conquistadors without the permission of the Crown. For this reason, he was not named the 1<sup>st</sup> viceroy.
16. **Bartolome de Las Casas** was a Franciscan missionary and a supporter of relieving the suffering natives. He repeatedly wrote to the crown saying that there should be some law to protect the Indians. He initially suggested to bring in Africans for relief, but later retracted this view.

17. **Peninsulares** were men and sometimes women born in Spain. They received the highest offices, especially in government. Their control of land and superior attitude caused them to come into conflict with the creoles. The Bourbon reforms favored the Peninsulares.
18. A **creole** was a pure Spaniard that was born in America. They resented the peninsulares, who by being born in Spain were given much more prestige. The Bourbon reforms weakened Creole power.
19. **Mulattos** were a mix of European and African blood. They became increasingly common due to the lack of African women. They would often try to pass themselves off as Spanish, if possible.
20. A **patronado** is a patron of the pope. Isabella became a patronado, and she was allowed to appoint people to church positions.
21. **Tikal** was the most important city state of the Maya civilization.
22. **Teotihuacan** was a city of an ancient city in present day Mexico. The Aztec Empire also controlled the land that was once part of Teotihuacan. The Aztecs attempted to claim that that had descended from the society that lived in Teotihuacan.
23. **Chinampas** were floating heaps of grass. They were used by the Aztecs to build gardens around the floating city of Tenochtitlan.
24. **Tribute** is the system where one party gives the other wealth as a sign of submission. The Aztecs readily used the tribute system, creating many enemies that facilitated their fall at the hands of the Spanish. Because they were used to the tribute system, they easily adapted to the Spanish system of *encomienda*.
25. **Zacatecas** was a city in north central Mexico. It was the location of the first rich silver mines.
26. **Mita** was the labor system of the Inca. This system was closely related to the *repartimiento* system that was employed by the Spanish.
27. **Mercantilism** is the theory that a country should get as much gold and silver in its treasury as possible. Colonization of the New World was a mercantilist venture. Gold and silver were mined here.
28. **Maroon** was the moniker for runaway slaves. These slaves established "maroon communities" that became so entrenched that the government could not overpower them and return the slaves.
29. **Moctezuma II** was the ruler of the Aztecs when the Spanish arrived. He was captured by Cortés and killed shortly after, though the exact cause is disputed. One story has him being killed accidentally by a rock, while the other has him being killed by his own people because they lost respect for him after he acquiesced to Spanish demands.
30. **Requerimiento** was the system used to enslave Indians. It specifically enslaved Indians that revolted against either Catholicism or the government.
31. **Antonio de Mendoza** was the 1<sup>st</sup> viceroy of New Spain. He was given the position in place of Cortés.
32. The **Audencia**, established in 1528, was a royal cabinet. It was created before Mendoza became the 1<sup>st</sup> viceroy. It was supposed to, ideally, recommend the viceroy to do certain things, but, in reality, the two parties clashed.
33. The **Viceroyalty** was a territory in the name of a monarchy overseen by a viceroy. New Spain was a viceroyalty, ruled by Antonio Mendoza
34. **Reducciones** was the reduction of the number of Indians in particular areas. The Spanish would sometimes relocate certain Indians to places like cities to get access to the land that they were on.

## Topics

- I. Pre-conquest Mayans

a. Homeland



- - City-states
  - Tikal was the most important city-state
  - b. Social organization
    - Hereditary kings
    - Stratified society
    - Distinct social divisions
  - c. Development and collapse of society
    - Society collapsed in 900 A.D.
    - Slowly recovered until 1411, when new city states had a civil war
    - The Spanish used this civil war to their advantage
  - d. Economy
    - Revolved around corn
    - Long distance trade
  - e. Religion
    - Connected to cyclical calendar
  - f. Technological advances
    - Advanced in art and science
- II. Pre-conquest Aztecs
- a. Origins
    - Most likely Nahua people from current day southwestern U.S.
    - Arrived in 1219 A.D.
    - Settled in the Mexico Valley
  - b. Capital city
    - Founded Tenochtitlan in 1325 A.D.
    - Island in the center of Lake Texcoco
    - Used chinampas to increase the size of the city
    - Irrigation was used
  - c. Economy
    - Extensive trading system
    - Forced tribute from other areas
    - Enormous marketplace
  - d. Social organization
    - Rapid expansion caused stratified society
  - e. Empire building
    - Began push outward in 1430 A.D.
  - f. Religion
    - Religion made the Aztecs more warlike
    - Chief god was the god of war and the sun
    - Sacrifices were vital to religion
  - g. Vulnerability to Spanish

- Because their empire was based on fear, they had many enemies that could be potential allies to the Spanish
- III. Pre-conquest Spain
- a. Muslim period and impact
    - Muslim culture affected Spanish culture
    - Affected hidalgo personality
    - Spanish resented the Muslims
  - b. Reconquista and hidalgo personality
    - Muslims were eradicated from Spain
    - Left a lasting impression on hidalgo personality
      - Zealous Catholics
      - Resented foreigners
      - Favored soldiers
  - c. Ferdinand & Isabella
    - Religion
      - Catholicism
      - Sought to found Catholic colonies
    - Nationalism
      - Closely tied to religion
      - To be Spanish was to be Catholic
  - d. Hapsburgs and impact on New World focus
    - Focus turned more to riches rather than religion
- IV. Conquest of the Aztecs
- a. Basic process
    - Cortés took Montezuma prisoner
    - Montezuma died while in captivity
    - Spanish driven away from Tenochtitlan
    - Conquer Tenochtitlan with the help of Tlaxcalteca (enemies of the Spanish)
  - b. Contributing factors
    - Breakdown of political unity
    - Poor harvest
    - Weapons
    - Diseases
    - Aztec's enemies
  - c. Black Legend (I added this)
    - Portrayed the Spanish conquest negatively (rightfully so)
    - Used as a kind of propaganda
- V. La Malinche and Mexican Identity
- a. Origins
    - Origins unknown
    - Probably noble
    - Guide for Cortés
  - b. View of conquistadors
    - Negative
  - c. Changing image
    - Initially virtuous
    - Then a serpent (represented Spain)
    - Then a symbol of selling out
    - Then a symbol of the rape of Mexico
  - d. Connection to Mexican identity
    - Considered the first mestizo
- VI. New Spain
- a. Goal of conquistadors
    - Riches
    - Spread Christianity
  - b. Elements used to establish control
    - Christianity

- Spanish law
- Indian social and political structures
- c. Importance of cities
  - Centers of everything
  - Often built from the giant native cities
- d. Labor/Tribute systems
  - Encomienda
    - Cortés employed it to keep the conquistadors happy
    - Ready-made tribute system
    - Region owned by a conquistador
    - Caciques helped to control the natives
    - Labor used to pay off debt
    - Indians couldn't keep up with the system
  - Requerimiento
    - Enslaved Indians
    - Protected against revolt against Catholicism and the government
- e. Land
  - Desire for
    - Primogeniture in Spain meant younger son often became conquistadors in hope that they could get land
  - Loss of
    - Indians were allowed to stay on the land, but the land was now controlled by an encomendero
  - Importance of law
    - Spanish were very concerned with the lawfulness of their actions
- f. Failure of encomienda
  - Ferdinand and Isabella thought it gave too much power to the nobles they had just taken power away from
  - Replaced by repartimiento
- g. Viceroyalty
  - New Spain
  - Antonio Mendoza was the viceroy
- h. Audencia
  - Royal cabinet
  - Was supposed to advise the viceroy
    - However, there was often clashing
- i. Repartimiento
  - Replaced encomienda
  - Temporary allotment of indigenous workers for a given task
  - Theoretically was supposed to provide fair payment and working conditions to the indigenous
  - In practice, abuse abounded

## VII. Role of the Catholic church

- a. Franciscans & Dominicans
  - Early missionaries
- b. Goals
  - Millenary zeal
  - Conversion
- c. Conversion
  - Caciques
  - Outward rituals
  - Incomplete
  - Syncretism
- d. Settler/Missionary conflict
  - Bartolome de Las Casas

- Repeatedly wrote to the crown that the Indians should be protected by law
  - He was considered the savior of the Indians
- e. Case of Yucatan
- Maya view
    - Mayans were polytheistic
    - Spanish God was just added to all the others
  - Impact/results
    - Idols discovered
    - 4,500 Mayans tortured
    - Savage punishments
    - Missionaries felt betrayed
    - Disillusionment
    - Mayans retreated to the cities
    - Reduccion
    - Huge gulf between the Mayans and the Spanish
- VIII. Colonial Economic Activities
- a. Hacienda system
- Development
    - Shift in land ownership
    - Depopulation and reducciones
  - Social organization
    - Hacendado became elite class
    - Peons were peasants who worked on the land
  - Activities
    - Economic self-sufficiency for everything but luxuries
    - Trade with local markets
  - Patrimonialism
    - Land owner exerts authority over those living on land, using force to enforce his authority
    - Landowner controls all trade to and from his estate, participating in the capitalist marketplace
- b. Mining
- Location
    - North central Mexico
    - Zacatecas
  - Labor
    - Skilled labor required
    - Indians, mestizos, and free blacks
  - Crown control
    - Crown owned anything underground
- c. Trade & Mercantilism
- Monopolies
    - Crown had monopolies on silver mines
  - Changes in 1600's
    - Reasons
      - Self sufficiency
      - Spain less able to supply manufactured goods wanted
      - Convoys increasingly erratic
    - Results
      - Smuggling
      - Trade with Philippines
      - Trade dropped dramatically
- IX. Race & Castas
- a. Crown plans
- Republicas
    - Separation of races
      - Republica de Indios

- Republica de Espanoles
    - Distinct laws, communities, marriage, and jobs
  - Reasons for failure
    - Few Spanish women
    - Economic and social realities ensure biological and cultural mixing
- b. Castas
  - Peninsulares
    - Men born in Spain
    - Held highest offices
  - Creoles
    - Spaniards born in Latin America
    - Officers in army, but not in government
    - Often resented power of the peninsulares
  - Mestizos
    - Mixed European and Indian
  - Mulattos
    - Mixed European and African
  - Indians/Africans
- c. Limpeza de sangre
  - Spanish Law
  - Purity of Blood
  - Made Spaniards prove they had no Moorish blood
- d. Impact of Tribute on acculturation
  - Contact that tribute created facilitated acculturation
- e. Role of Mestizos
  - Not really a class until the 1600s
  - Illegitimate
  - Had a psychological and legal burden
  - Acculturation
  - Pushed the limits of tradition
  - Tried to pass of as Spaniards
- f. Africans & Mulattos
  - As agents of acculturation
    - Mulattos helped mix cultures
  - Revolts & maroon communities
    - Maroon communities were communities of runaway slaves
    - Many led revolts