

# 11.3

## European Conquests in the Americas



## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Analyze the results of the first encounters between the Spanish and Native Americans.
- Explain how the Aztec and Inca empires were impacted by Spanish conquistadors and European colonization.
- Describe how Portugal and other European nations challenged Spanish power.

# First Encounters

Columbus traveled to the new world & met the **Taino** people, whom Spain treated poorly

**Conquistadors**- Spanish Conquerors, arrived in the new world

Spain brought guns, armor, & horses which frightened many tribes in the region

Disease ravaged the country as many of the people had no **immunity**- resistance to disease.



# Cortes Conquers Aztecs

**Hernan Cortes-** Spanish general who landed in South America to take the Aztec Empire

**Tenochtitlan-** Capital of Aztec Empire & present day Mexico City

**La Malinche-** Native woman who helped Cortes as a translator

Most of the tribes of the region feared the Aztecs so they formed an **alliance-** agreement, with Spain



# Cortes & Moctezuma

**Moctezuma-** Aztec ruler who thought Cortes might be a god

Cortes became obsessed with the Aztecs after discovering they had gold

Cortes & his men are eventually pushed from the city with over half of them killed...

...but he returns & demolishes Tenochtitlan to the ground building Mexico City out of the rubble

# Inca Empire

**Francisco Pizarro-** Spanish general who heads to Peru in search of gold, meets Atahualpa

Atahualpa just won the throne during a **civil war**- war between people of the same nation.

Pizarro tricks him, capturing him & killing his men taking over Peru

Portugal moves into Brazil, setting up plantations & bringing slaves into the region

Much of Europe's government would hire pirates called privateers to attack Spanish & Portuguese ships



# Spanish Empire

**In time, Spain imposed its culture, language, religion, & way of life in the New World**

**Viceroy-** representatives who ruled in the king's name, watched over the region

**Missionaries tried to force Native Americans into Christianity & Spanish life styles**

**Spain also regulated trade within its own empire to take advantage of valuable resources from the New World**



# Spanish Empire Continued

**Encomienda's-** the “right” to demand labor or tribute from Native Americans in a particular area.

This drastically reduced native populations due to disease or dangerous mining

**Bartolome's de Las Casas** spoke out on the horrors & convinced Spain to forbid enslavement or abuse of the Natives

Hard to enforce & many Natives became **peons-** workers forced to labor for a landlord to pay off debt

Due to this, the African slave trade to the America's skyrocketed



# Society & Culture

**Peninsulares-** People who were born in Spain & at the top of the social class.

**Creoles-** American-born descendants of Spanish settlers

**Mestizos-** People of Native American & European descent

**Mulattoes-** People of African & European descent



# Society & Culture

**Spanish culture spread throughout the Americas & colonies began to build universities**

**Spanish, African, & Native culture would begin to blend & form new customs**

**Spain would grow enormously wealthy due to the trade & conquest of the Americas**

**Native Americans suffered but resisted against Spain in numerous ways**

