

From Colonization to Independence



7.01 Identify historical events such as invasions, conquests, and migrations and evaluate their relationship to current issues.

7.02 Examine the causes of key historical events in selected areas of South America and Europe and analyze the short- and long-range effects on political, economic, and social institutions.

Connecting to Your World

If you had lived in Europe before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas, you would have never enjoyed chocolate, corn, turkey, peppers, potatoes, or tomatoes. And if you had lived in the Americas, you would never have eaten oranges, bananas, beef, or pork. After the Spanish came to America, plants and animals were exchanged, or traded, between America and Europe. This came to be known as the **Columbian Exchange**.

Conquered Lands

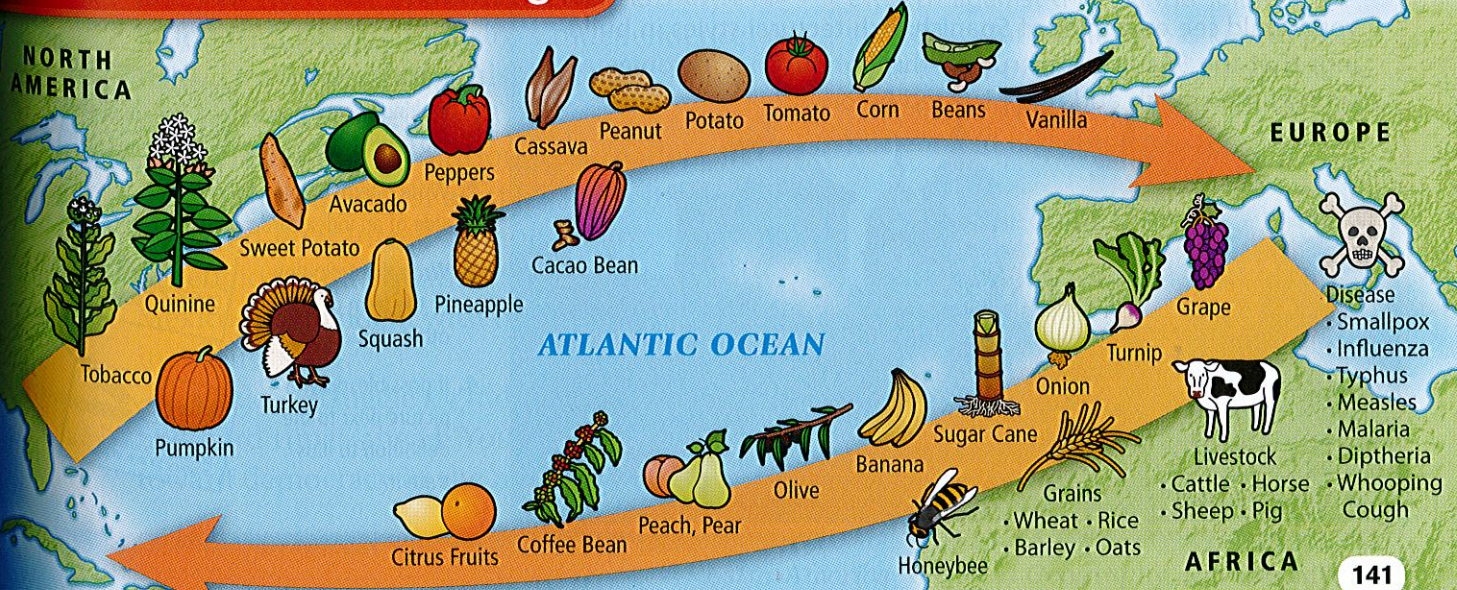
KEY QUESTION How did Spanish rule affect life in Latin America?

After Columbus arrived in 1492, life for the Indians changed dramatically. In 1521, a Spanish **conquistador** (kahn•KWIHS•tuh•DAWR), or conqueror, Hernán Cortés, defeated the Aztec. And in 1533 Francisco Pizarro, another Spanish *conquistador*, defeated the Inca.

The Exchange

The graphic shows the goods and diseases transferred between the two hemispheres. **What vegetables did Europeans bring to the Americas?**

Columbian Exchange



Colonial Rule By the mid-1500s, the Spanish had set up **colonies**, or overseas territories ruled by a nation, in various parts of Latin America. Spain's goal was to take advantage of the resources and vast lands in its new **empire**.

To rule the empire, Spain set up a class society. At the top were the *peninsulares* (peh•neen•soo•LAHR•ehs), people born in Spain. They held the high government positions. Below them were the *criollos* (kree•OH•loh), Spaniards born in Latin America. They were often wealthy, but could not hold high government offices. These two groups controlled land, wealth, and power in the colonies.

Below the *criollos* were the **mestizos** (mehs•TEE•zohs), people of Spanish and Indian ancestry. They had little power. Finally, African enslaved persons and Indians were at the bottom and had no power.

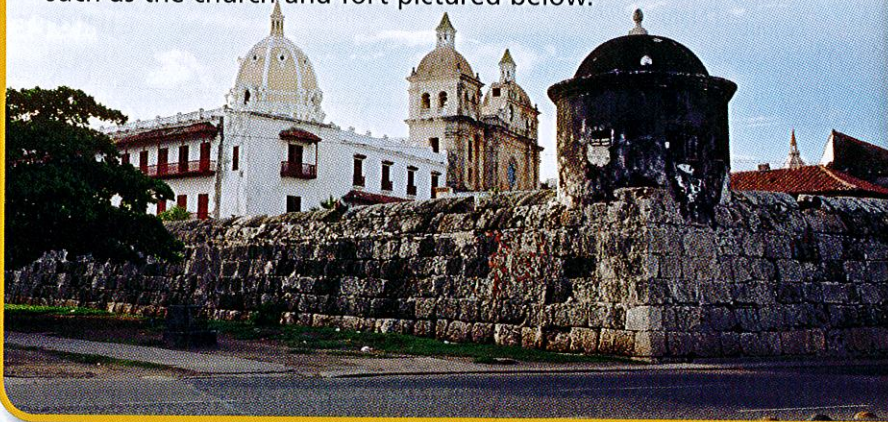
Colonial Economy One of Spain's main purposes in creating colonies was to make Spain wealthy. To do so, Spain set up a system known as *encomienda* (ehn•koh•mee•EHN•duh). Under this system, Indians mined, ranched, and farmed for Spanish landlords. The Indians lived in poverty and hardship, essentially enslaved.

Spain, however, grew wealthy. The Spanish established huge ranches to raise cattle and sheep and large plantations to grow sugar cane, coffee, and cacao in various parts of Latin America. Spain made huge profits from the gold and silver extracted from Mexican mines.

SYNTHESIZE Explain how life changed for people in Latin America under Spanish rule.

CONNECT to Language Arts

The time during which Spain ruled its colonies in Latin America is often referred to as the region's *colonial period*. If you visited Latin America today, you would see many examples of Spanish influence. In addition to hearing the Spanish language, you would see examples of Spanish architectural styles in buildings that the Spanish constructed throughout their colonies, such as the church and fort pictured below.



Activity

Make Vocabulary Cards

Materials

- index cards
- markers

1. Learn the new terms in this chapter by making vocabulary flip cards.
2. Write a term on one side of an index card.
3. Write the definition of the term on the other side.
4. If possible, draw a picture next to the definition to illustrate it.

