



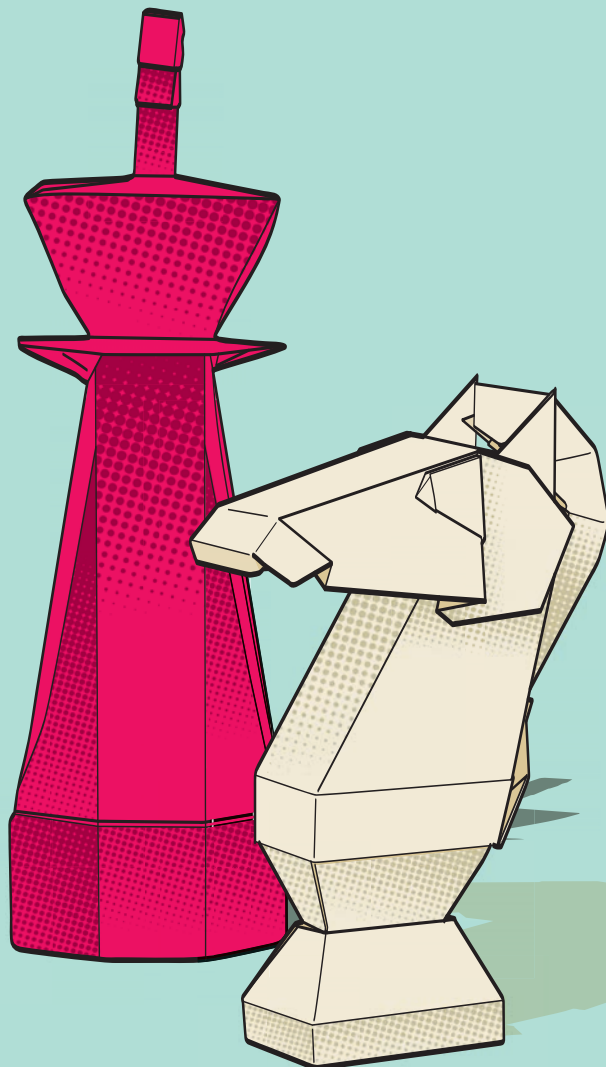
Pearson
Revise

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

**Spain and the 'New World',
c1490–1555**

Revision Guide and Workbook



Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

**Spain and the 'New World',
c1490–1555****Revision Guide and Workbook****Series Consultant: Harry Smith****Author: Brian Dowse**

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A small bit of small print

Edexcel publishes Sample Assessment Material and the Specification on its website. This is the official content and this book should be used in conjunction with it. The questions in *Now try this* have been written to help you practise every topic in the book. Remember: the real exam questions may not look like this.

Spain, c1490

In the 1490s, Spain had ambitions to expand its religious influence and trade prospects abroad. Crusades were used in an attempt to achieve both these aims.

Spain in the 1490s

- Spain had been politically united since 1479 following the marriage of Queen Isabella of Castile and King Ferdinand of Aragon.
- Spain was also religiously united: in the 1490s all Muslims and Jews were expelled if they did not agree to convert to Christianity.
- Spain was emerging as one of the most powerful countries in Europe, rivalled by France to the north and Portugal to the west.



Ferdinand and Isabella, the 'Catholic Monarchs'. Queen Isabella in particular was personally **pious** (deeply religious).

The importance of religion

- Christianity was the main religion in Europe.
- The Catholic Church, led by the pope, was very powerful, in political as well as religious matters.
- The Church had a great influence over people's everyday lives and regular church attendance was expected.
- If the Church, in general, and the pope, in particular, supported a monarch, this would strengthen their power and influence, so it was advantageous to Ferdinand and Isabella to be seen as pious.

The crusading spirit

- The Church at this time wanted to defend the Christian religion from the influence of other religions and to spread Christianity as far as possible.
- The Church supported crusades, which were expeditions to foreign countries, undertaken with the aim of converting the people there to Christianity.
- Initiating and funding crusades meant that Ferdinand and Isabella had the support of the Church and of their people.

Foreign ambitions

- As well as being justified by the aim of converting the local people to Christianity, the exploration and conquest of foreign lands were desirable to expand Spanish influence and provide new trading opportunities.
- Many believed that exploration would open up a new trade route to the East Indies.
- The expeditions would also ensure that Spain, and not Portugal, became the dominant power in southern Europe as it would gain more territory and expand its empire.
- Ferdinand and Isabella also wished to gain new territories for treasure, especially gold and silver.

Ferdinand and Isabella conquered **Granada** – a Muslim state in southern Spain – in 1492.

Now try this

Piety is the quality of being pious – deeply religious.

Write a paragraph explaining why Isabella's personal **piety** was key to her desire to support voyages of exploration and discovery in the 1490s.

Columbus and sponsorship

In the 1480s, Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer, looked for sponsorship for his proposed voyage to open up a new sea route to the East Indies.

The race to find a sea route

- Opening up the route to the East Indies would allow many new trading opportunities and potentially large profits.
- Anyone who could establish a trade route by sea, and control over the discovered territories, would gain a huge fortune.
- Interest was strengthened by recent discoveries, in particular that of the Canaries by Spain, and Madeira by Portugal. This made explorers like Columbus believe that there were other new islands and lands that offered enormous opportunities to make money.

The need for financial support

- Voyages of exploration were not cheap as the explorers required ships, provisions and crews who were prepared to risk their lives journeying into the unknown.
- This required financial sponsorship. Sponsors or investors would put up money (capital) in return for a share of the profits made from the voyage.
- Before approaching Isabella and Ferdinand, Columbus had appealed to a number of other European monarchs for support, including the kings of France and Portugal and Henry VII of England, without success.

Why Ferdinand and Isabella granted support in 1491

- ✓ Isabella's personal priest Juan Perez was a friend of Columbus and helped him to present his case to Isabella.
- ✓ A successful expedition would raise Spain's international prestige. Isabella and Ferdinand wanted to establish the trade route and gain control of the territories before their rival, Portugal.
- ✓ The plan had the potential to provide huge income for the Spanish treasury, making the government rich.
- ✓ Isabella, in particular, saw the voyage as an opportunity to spread Christianity to distant lands. This was an important reason for her support for Columbus.

Official support for the 1492 expedition

- Columbus would be entitled to 10 per cent of the produce of any territories discovered.
- If the expedition was successful, he would also receive honours and titles.
- He would be given the title of Grand Admiral of the Ocean Sea.
- He would be appointed governor of any newly colonised lands.



Columbus was able to hire three ships; the *Nina*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria*, as well as the crews he needed to complete his voyage of exploration.

Now try this

Give **one** reason why Ferdinand and Isabella supported Columbus's 1492 voyage of exploration.

Columbus's first voyage, 1492

Columbus's voyage of exploration and discovery reached the 'New World' in 1492.

Suitable provisions were needed for a long voyage, including enough preserved food, wine and water to feed the crews for a year, plus items to trade with natives.

Finding ships and crew: the Pinzón brothers helped Columbus to find and equip three ships: the *Nina*, the *Pinta* and the *Santa Maria*.

Martin Pinzón disagreed with Columbus's navigation plans and wanted to turn south as he believed it would take them to Japan. Columbus persuaded him to sail westwards.

Challenges of the voyage

There was a possibility that Portuguese rivals would seek to obstruct Columbus's Atlantic crossing. Columbus adjusted his route to avoid this.

The crew was uneasy about sailing for a long time without sighting land. Columbus kept two logs – one an accurate set and another understating the distance they had travelled, which he showed to the crew.

The voyage and discovery of land

- The expedition left Spain on 3 August, with Columbus captaining the largest ship, the *Santa Maria*.
- On 11 October, land-based birds were spotted. Land was sighted that night.
- On 12 October, Columbus and the Pinzón brothers, with hand-picked members of the crew, rowed ashore and claimed the newly discovered land for Spain.
- Columbus had discovered an island he called San Salvador. Later, he found out that the natives called it Guanahani.
- Almost as soon as they had landed, Columbus and his men were met by a crowd of native people and they traded goods. Columbus remained convinced that he had reached the East Indies.

Columbus's
voyage of 1492



The significance of Columbus's voyage

- Columbus had discovered that there was land to the west of Spain and across the Atlantic, although many, including Columbus, believed that they had discovered another sea route to the East Indies.
- This meant that Spain could now claim control of any lands that were discovered by Columbus, or by any other explorer backed by Ferdinand and Isabella.
- However, Spain's claim could be challenged by Portugal, who would also want to send explorers westwards across the Atlantic.

Now try this

Describe **two** challenges Columbus encountered with his voyage of 1492 and how he overcame them.

The Bahamas and the Caribbean

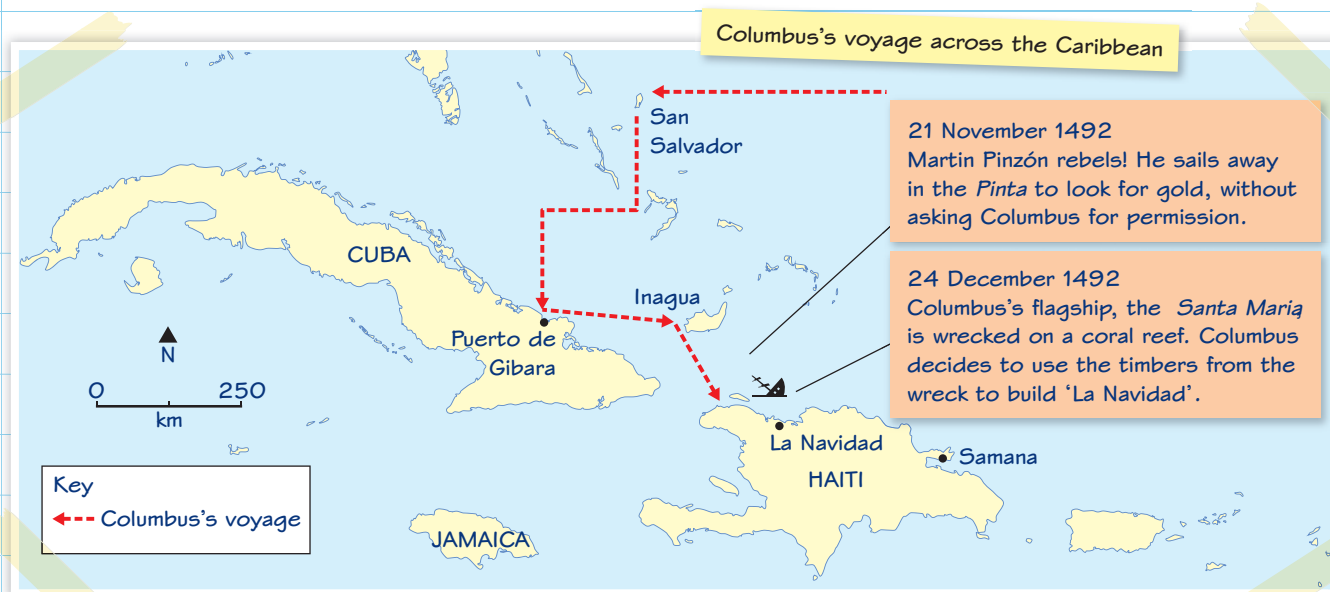
Columbus explored the area looking for gold and founded a settlement at La Navidad, Haiti.

Columbus's first contact with the native people

- When Columbus landed on San Salvador he claimed it for Spain.
- In his journal, Columbus described the natives as naked and wearing gold ornaments through holes in their noses.
- Believing he was in the East Indies, Columbus referred to the native people as 'Indians'.
- The people told him that their chief had gold but would not allow Columbus to meet him, saying only that there was gold further south.

Columbus looks for gold

- With the hope of finding gold, Columbus sailed south from San Salvador.
- Having explored several islands (the modern-day Bahamas), Columbus failed to find gold.
- He then landed on a large island the natives had called Colba (modern-day Cuba), believing it was Japan.
- Columbus called the island Isla Juana after Prince Juan, the son of Ferdinand and Isabella.



The building of La Navidad

- On 21 November 1492, the captain of the *Pinta*, Martin Pinzón, sailed away to look for gold without Columbus's permission.
- Columbus's ship, the *Santa Maria*, ran aground on Christmas Eve, leaving him with only the *Nina* for all his men.
- Columbus built a fort, known as La Navidad, for protection, as there had already been trouble at Samana.

See page 5 for more on this incident.

Columbus returns to Spain

- After the loss of the *Santa Maria*, 39 men had to be left behind at La Navidad to wait for the next Spanish expedition.
- Columbus sailed back to Europe on board the *Nina*, making landfall first in Portugal and then in Spain on 15 March 1493.
- The *Pinta*, having found gold on its solo exploration, rejoined the *Nina*, lost contact again, then landed in northern Spain before returning to port in Palos, in the south.

Now try this

Give **two** reasons why Columbus built the fort known as La Navidad.

Impact of contact with natives

Contact with Caribbean natives in 1492 was peaceful at first, but conflict later arose.

Initial contact and cooperation

- Initial contact was friendly and resulted in trade. In his journal Columbus noted that the natives were more curious than aggressive.
- The Tainos, a tribe of people on Cuba, believed that the Spaniards were 'men from the sky' who would help fulfil their elders' prophecies, so cooperated with them.
- Typically, trade was in hats, balls and glass beads from Spain and cotton, parrots and javelins from the islands.
- The native people helped the Spanish unload the *Santa Maria* when it struck a reef off the coast of Haiti.

Columbus found small amounts of gold on Haiti but Martin Pinzón soon found more on a nearby island.

Cotton was seen growing on Cuba, San Salvador and on other islands in the Bahamas.

Gold, cotton and tobacco, 1492-93

The 'cotton' the Spanish saw was actually kapok, which could be spun and woven like cotton.

Tobacco was given to Columbus as a gift by a native chief in San Salvador.

The Spanish quickly adopted the native practice of smoking tobacco rolled into cigars.

Relations with the native people

- In his journal Columbus noted that the Tainos were peaceful, would make good slaves and would be easily converted to Christianity.
- In contrast, Columbus described the Caribs as 'ferocious', engaged in cannibalism and in raiding other tribes looking for slaves and women. He also wrote about the shrunken heads seen in a Carib village.



Artist's drawing of a Carib village

The first conflict at Samana

The success of the Spanish expedition depended on finding large quantities of gold, which brought them into conflict with some tribes.

The first incident happened at Samana, Haiti, where the *Nina* was forced to anchor during a storm.

Going ashore to look for gold, the Spanish were attacked by the natives. In the violence that followed, two of the native people were wounded and the rest escaped.

The incident showed that the native people were prepared to attack, so the Spanish would need to be ready to defend themselves.

Columbus was already prepared to use force to achieve the expedition's objective of finding gold, but after the incident at Samana he wrote in his journal that the natives must be made to fear the Spanish.

Now try this

Write a short paragraph about why the incident at Samana was important.

Rivalry with Portugal

Portugal and Spain both believed they had a claim to the New World – the dispute was resolved through the Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494.

Columbus's return to Spain

Columbus recrossed the Atlantic, arriving first at Lisbon in Portugal on 4 March 1493.



Soon after his arrival in Palos, Spain, on 15 March 1493, Columbus was warmly congratulated by Ferdinand and Isabella and allowed to accompany them to Barcelona in triumph.



He received the titles promised to him when Ferdinand and Isabella had originally agreed to sponsor the expedition.

See page 2 for a list of the titles and financial rewards promised to Columbus.

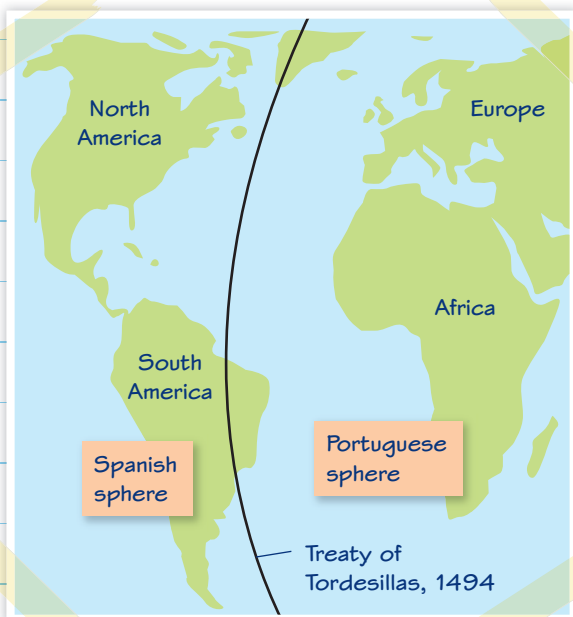
The Portuguese claim the New World

- King John of Portugal soon heard about Columbus's expedition and the existence of a New World across the Atlantic.
- Portugal now claimed that it, not Spain, had the right to rule the New World, based on an agreement, the Treaty of Alcacovas of 1479, which stated that all lands to the west belonged to Portugal.
- Ferdinand and Isabella rejected John's claim to any part of the New World and assembled a fleet of ships in southern Spain close to Portugal: war seemed likely.

The Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494

- The intervention of Pope Alexander VI resolved the dispute.
- The pope supported Spain's claim because of Isabella's piety: he believed that Spain would spread Christianity in the New World.

See page 1 for more on the importance of religion.



Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494

- Under the Treaty, a line was drawn from the North Pole to the South Pole, 2000km to the west of Cape Verde. All lands to the west of this line were Spanish. All lands to the east, with the exception of the Canaries, were Portuguese.
- The New World was all Spanish, except for some easterly parts of South America. The exploration and control of Africa was left to the Portuguese.

Why was the Treaty of Tordesillas important?

- The treaty gave Spain most of the New World. Ferdinand and Isabella were now in a position to claim Mexico, North America and most of South America, in addition to the Caribbean.
- This meant that any gold and silver found in these territories would go only to Spain.
- Spain now had a major incentive to explore further and conquer much of the New World: as a way of obtaining gold, silver, tobacco and other resources.

Now try this

In **one** paragraph, explain the terms of the Treaty of Tordesillas of 1494.

Columbus's other voyages

Columbus made three further voyages: two as Spanish governor of the Caribbean settlements between 1493 and 1500, and a final voyage from 1502 to 1504.

1 Columbus's second voyage, 1493–96

- As 'Viceroy of the Indies', Columbus was in charge of the new territories.
- He was given a fleet of 17 ships carrying about 1200 people: priests, gentlemen, farmers and skilled craft workers as well as animals, seeds and tools.

Turn to page 3 to read about the first voyage of 1492.

2 Columbus as governor

- Columbus was responsible for establishing a colony of settlements in the discovered lands in the Caribbean.
- His aims were to treat the natives well and convert them to Christianity, and to send back gold to the Spanish government.
- He had the power to appoint officials to act on his behalf.

4 Columbus returns to Spain

- Leaving his brother Bartholomew in charge at Isabela, in 1494 Columbus left to explore the southern coastline of Cuba.
- Straight away, Bartholomew started building a new settlement at Santo Domingo.
- Columbus reached Spain in June 1496 to report on progress and respond to criticisms of his governance of Isabela.

3 The foundation of Isabela, 1493

- Columbus founded a new settlement 'Isabela', but it was unsuccessful because of the poor location and because most Spanish settlers were more interested in finding gold and troubling the local women than in clearing the forest for planting crops.
- With no experience of running a settlement, Columbus was unable to control the Spanish settlers and became angry because of the conflict they caused.

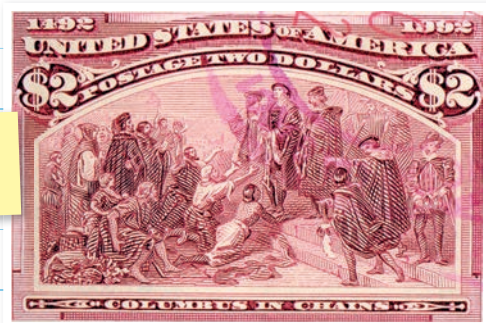
5 The significance of Santo Domingo

- Columbus returned from Spain in 1498 to find the settlement at Santo Domingo in an uproar.
- He was able to calm matters for a while by offering the settlers special rights, including land and native labourers to work on it.
- The rebellion continued and Columbus responded by hanging some Spaniards and natives; unable to control the colony, he requested help from Ferdinand and Isabella.
- The Spanish government sent its own representative, Francisco de Bobadilla, to replace Columbus as governor in 1500. He upheld the settlers' grievances and Columbus was returned to Spain in chains to face trial.

6 Columbus's trial and final voyage

- Columbus and Bartholomew were accused of tyranny, brutality and incompetence and imprisoned for six weeks.
- Ferdinand and Isabella allowed Columbus to keep his titles but ordered he should no longer have any say in the government of the territories in the Caribbean.
- Columbus undertook a fourth voyage between May 1502 and November 1504 but by this time Isabella had died and Ferdinand refused to meet him on his return.

'Columbus In Chains' was part of a series of postage stamps issued in the USA in 1892 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of the New World.



Now try this

- 1 Describe the key events that led to Columbus's return to Spain in disgrace in 1500.
- 2 In a short summary, explain the significance of the revolt at Santo Domingo.

Effects of Spanish settlement

Spanish settlement, from 1493 onwards, had significant effects on the New World and especially on the native population.

The development of a Spanish Empire in the New World

The discovery of inhabited lands on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean presented Ferdinand and Isabella with opportunities:

- They could encourage Spanish settlers to colonise the land and develop their crusading spirit by converting previously unknown lands to Christianity.
- They could also use any gold and silver found in the New World to boost the wealth of the Spanish government and increase Spain's power and influence in the world.

However, any Spanish Empire in the New World had to find a way of governing the native population.

The New World referred to lands colonised in the western hemisphere including the Caribbean, the Bermudas and the American mainland.

The development of slavery:

- Under Columbus, the Spanish organised expeditions to capture slaves and send them to the slave markets of Spain. This policy was stopped by Isabella, who freed and returned many of the natives.
- However, under Governor Ovando the *encomienda* system was established, whereby each Spanish settler was allocated a group of natives who had to provide tribute in the form of labour, goods, or both. In return, the Spanish would 'protect' the natives, teach them Spanish and convert them to Christianity. In practice, this meant that many natives were exploited like slaves.

Gold and tribute:

- Natives were required to pay tribute to the Spanish in the form of gold, cotton or produce.
- The development of gold mining under Bobadilla and his successor, Ovando, meant that natives were instead required to work under harsh conditions in the gold mines set up by the Spanish as virtual slaves.

The effects of Spanish settlement in the New World

Disease and death:

- The Spanish brought with them new diseases, including smallpox and measles. The native people had no immunity to these infections and many died.
- This had a devastating effect on the native population. In Hispaniola (Haiti) there were an estimated 500 000 natives in 1492. By 1507 this had fallen to 60 000.

Native rebellions and Spanish repression:

- Natives who resisted slavery were treated brutally – many were mutilated or attacked by hunting dogs. During Columbus's governorship, and afterwards, some natives revolted.
- The Spanish responded brutally to revolt. In the Jaragua massacre (1503) the Spanish killed Tainos, burning them alive in the meeting house where they had gathered. Similarly, in the Higüey massacre hundreds of Tainos – men, women and children – were slaughtered by the Spanish.

Now try this

Describe **two** ways in which natives were affected by Spanish settlement in the New World.

Development of an imperial policy

Following Columbus's discovery of the New World, the Spanish government needed to develop an imperial policy to enable it to control trade and religion in the newly discovered lands.

Regulation of exploration:

- In 1495, Ferdinand and Isabella issued a decree (lawful command) controlling exploration in the New World.
- It stated that any ship going to the New World had to be registered in, and leave from, Cadiz.
- One-tenth of the cargo on ships going to the New World had to be Spanish.
- People were free to live or prospect for gold in the New World but had to give two-thirds of the gold found and one-tenth of all other products to the Spanish treasury.
- The discovery of any new lands had to be registered with the Spanish authorities.

Establishment of a monopoly on trade:

- In 1503, a government agency was established in Seville.
- The aim of the *Casa de Contratacion* (House of Trade) was to ensure that Spain controlled all trade with the Caribbean, and that a proportion of the trade profits were paid to the Spanish treasury.
- Traders had to have permission from this agency before they could trade, giving Spain complete control over trade with the New World.

Extension of Spanish authority:

- After a hurricane in 1502 wrecked the town, Santa Domingo was rebuilt and developed as the control centre of Spanish government in the New World.
- From here the governor ruled the new Spanish territories on behalf of the Spanish government.

Spanish imperial policy in the New World

Use of missionaries to convert the native population:

- Catholic monks and priests accompanied the Spanish settlers in Haiti and elsewhere.
- Their role was to teach natives about Christianity and baptise them as Christians.
- They also taught reading and writing and discouraged the natives from following 'pagan' customs.

The Laws of Burgos, 1512:

- The Laws of Burgos were ordered by Ferdinand and applied to the whole of the New World.
- These laws maintained the *encomienda* system, which, in practice, turned the natives into slaves.

To read about the *encomienda* system, see page 8.

- The laws allowed Spanish officials to punish natives who broke the laws.
- They required natives to be instructed in Christianity.
- They set down that Indians were to be treated kindly and their hours of work regulated.



Natives working for the Spanish settlers

Spanish imperial policy ended the traditional way of life for natives, requiring them to convert to Christianity, live in towns and work, often as slaves, for the Spanish.

Now try this

In **one** paragraph, explain the significance of the Laws of Burgos, 1512.

Think about how the laws shaped the relationship between the Spanish and the native people.

Balboa and the conquistadors, 1513–28

Between 1513 and about 1528, the Spanish conquistadors conquered Panama, Cuba, Mexico and Peru, and circumnavigated the globe.

Who were the conquistadors?

- The conquistadors (a Spanish/Portuguese word meaning 'conqueror') were professional soldiers who took part in expeditions to explore and conquer lands in Central and South America.
- Officially only Spanish Catholics could act as conquistadors, but many were actually foreign mercenaries hoping to become rich by acting on behalf of the Spanish government.

The conquistadors were accompanied by Catholic priests whose aim was to convert natives to Christianity.

Balboa, conquistador

- ✓ Balboa was a conquistador whose major motive was to gain wealth.
- ✓ He arrived in Central America as early as 1509 and by 1511 had become governor of Veragua.
- ✓ In 1513, he led an expedition that discovered the Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ He was ruthless: the native people were treated brutally.
- ✓ The possibility of great wealth, in the form of gold, silver and pearls, led to rivalry between Balboa and Pedrarias (another ambitious conquistador).
- ✓ In 1519, Balboa was executed for treason in Acla by Pedrarias, who replaced him as governor.

The discovery of the Pacific, 1513

- In 1513, Balboa led an expedition that crossed the isthmus of Panama and discovered the Pacific.
- Balboa claimed the sea and the land that surrounded it for Spain.
- The new route meant that Spain was free to conquer lands on the Pacific coast.



The expeditions of Balboa, 1513

The founding and significance of Panama

- Panama was founded as a Spanish territory under Pedrarias as royal governor, and became important as a colony.
- From there, Pedrarias and his second-in-command, Espinosa, explored the Pacific coast.
- The route through Panama led to Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe.

See page 12 to revise Magellan.

- Panama became a starting point for further conquests by Cortes and by Pizarro.

Turn to pages 13–15 for more about Cortes, and pages 17–19 for more about Pizarro.

Now try this

Give **two** reasons why Balboa's expeditions in Central America were so important.

The conquest of Cuba

Between 1511 and 1514, Diego Velázquez conquered Cuba, giving Spain complete control over the Caribbean.

Key events in the conquest of Cuba

Timeline

1511 To obtain more slaves and plunder the gold and silver of Cuba, Velázquez launched an invasion. He also wanted to capture Hatuey, a native chief who had escaped from Haiti with 300 followers.

1513 At Caonao, 2000 native people were massacred by the Spanish, who ran amok in the village.

1514 Cuba was established as a Spanish colony under Velázquez. Spanish settlements were constructed at Santiago de Cuba and Havana.

• **By 1511** Death from illness had greatly reduced the number of people available to work as slaves in Haiti and in other islands controlled by the Spanish.

• **1512** Despite strong native resistance, Hatuey was captured. Having refused to convert to Christianity he was burned to death.

• **By 1514** The rest of the island was conquered by the Spanish.



The burning of the native chief Hatuey in 1512. He had tried to warn tribes in Cuba of the dangers posed by the Spanish.

The significance of the capture of Cuba

- The *encomienda* system was established in Cuba with the Spanish as masters and the natives as virtual slaves.

Look back at page 8 for more on the *encomienda* system.

- This allowed for the cultivation of crops, especially tobacco, on the island.
- The native population declined further – from about 350,000 in 1514 to about 3000 by 1555 – and from the mid-1500s African slaves were brought to Cuba.
- Spanish control of Cuba led to further exploration and conquest on the mainland, including of Florida and Mexico.

Cruelty to native people

- The natives were treated appallingly by the Spanish. Many were forced to work in gold mines and on cotton plantations.
- This prevented many of them from planting the crops that they had farmed for centuries. Many starved as a result.
- Others were murdered or enslaved.
- Native people were required to convert to Christianity. Those who refused to do so were burned as pagans and heretics.

A **heretic** is a non-believer: someone who believes something that is against the accepted religion, or acts against it.

Now try this

In a few short paragraphs, summarise in your own words the Spanish conquest of Cuba between 1511 and 1514.

The voyage of Magellan

Magellan's voyage around the globe resulted in the opening up of the Pacific for trade and exploration and gave Spain control over the Philippines.

The quest for the Spice Islands

- In 1518, the newly crowned Charles I of Spain placed Ferdinand Magellan in command of five ships to sail across the Atlantic and find a new route to the **Spice Islands** (part of the East Indies) and new lands for Spain.

The Spice Islands were famous for their large amounts of mace, nutmeg and pepper.

- The Treaty of Tordesillas did not specify whether the Spice Islands belonged to Spain or Portugal.
- Charles wanted Magellan to find the islands first for Spain, to develop trade in spices.
- Magellan was keen to take up the challenge to find the new sea route.

Magellan's journey

- In 1519, Magellan set sail westwards and southwards across the Atlantic, entering the Pacific by discovering the narrow strait at the tip of South America, later named after him.

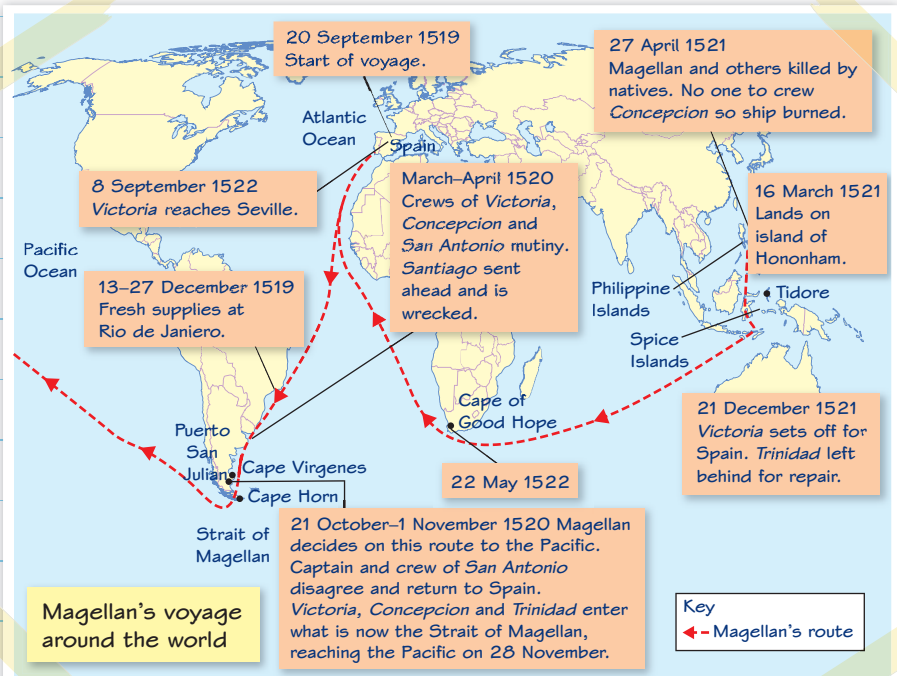
- He sailed to the Philippines, which he reached in 1521, claiming them for Spain.

Magellan was later killed in the Philippines by natives.

- In 1522, having sailed westwards across the Indian Ocean, only one of the five ships, the *Victoria*, returned to port in Spain. Of the 270 men who had set out in 1519 only 18 returned, many of them very sick.

Why was Magellan's voyage important?

- It established that the earth was round and that Columbus was correct in his belief that the East Indies could be reached by sailing westwards.
- It opened up the Pacific, leading to the exploration of the East Indies and the Philippines. Ships could also sail up the Pacific coast opening up the west coast of North America to exploration and trade. By the mid-1540s, places such as California were being visited by Spanish explorers.
- It meant that the Philippines became part of the Spanish Empire. This, together with the Spanish Empire in the New World, enabled Spain to dominate world trade by the 1540s, with tobacco, spices, silver and gold all being traded by Spanish ships. This also meant that the income of the Spanish government increased as gold, silver and taxes rolled into its treasury.



Now try this

Explain why Charles I was keen for Magellan to find the Spice Islands.

Expedition to Mexico, 1519

Cortes's 1519 expedition to Mexico resulted in the collapse of the Aztec Empire and in Spanish control over Central America.

Why did the Spanish send an expedition to Mexico?

- Explorers who had returned the year before brought back beautiful gold and silver objects and stories of stone cities built by the Mayans.
- Velázquez, the ambitious governor of Cuba, wanted the wealth and fame that would result from claiming more land for Spain, as well as Church approval for spreading Christianity.
- Working for Velázquez in Cuba, Cortes had become wealthy. The prospect of more treasure made Cortes willing to launch an expedition to Mexico.

Rivalry between Velázquez and Cortes

Velázquez appointed Cortes as the commander of the expedition to Mexico.

Cortes was responsible for establishing trading relations with the tribes living along the coast, but ordered not to settle on the mainland.

Realising that Cortes might ignore his orders and conquer the territory, Velázquez changed his mind about having Cortes in charge just before the expedition was due to sail.

Velázquez set out to arrest Cortes and stop him from setting sail but was too late. Cortes had been warned and had already left Cuba with 11 ships and about 600 men and 100 Cuban slaves.

Mexico in 1519

- Mexico was dominated by the Aztec Empire, which had existed for hundreds of years and was ruled by Montezuma.
- Rulers of the conquered cities could remain in power provided they paid tribute and supplied the Aztecs with warriors as necessary.
- Many tribes resented Aztec rule and were potential allies for Cortes and the Spanish against the Aztecs.
- The Aztec capital Tenochtitlan, a city of about 300,000 people in the centre of Lake Texcoco, was larger than any European city.



Cortes's arrival in Mexico

- In March 1519, Cortes landed in Mexico, formally claiming it for Spain.
- He then proceeded to the Tabasco River where he won a battle against the native tribes – the Mayans. Cortes owed much of his success to horses and artillery, which the Mayans did not have, giving him a significant military advantage.
- He was given 20 young native women, converting them to Christianity. Among these women was Malinche, who became both his mistress and interpreter. She spoke with both the Aztecs and other tribes on Cortes's behalf. Cortes was now in a position to meet and negotiate with the Aztecs.

Now try this

In your own words, give **two** reasons why the Spanish were prepared to launch an expedition to Mexico in 1519.

Key events of the conquest

By building alliances with the local tribe, the Tlaxcalans, Cortes was able to overthrow Montezuma and defeat the Aztec Empire.

Montezuma's invitation to Cortes

- ✓ Montezuma's Aztec spies had been tracking Cortes. They were concerned about the alliances and agreements made by Cortes with native tribes who disliked the Aztecs.
- ✓ Montezuma sent gifts to Cortes, inviting him and his soldiers to come to Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire, as his guests.
- ✓ The Aztecs suggested that the Spaniards travelled to Tenochtitlan through the sacred city of Cholula, which was under Aztec control. This may have reflected Montezuma's belief that the Spanish were gods who came from the sea.
- ✓ Cortes, fearing a trap, agreed that he would travel to Tenochtitlan via Cholula but also accepted the Tlaxcalan offer to provide 1000 warriors to go with him.

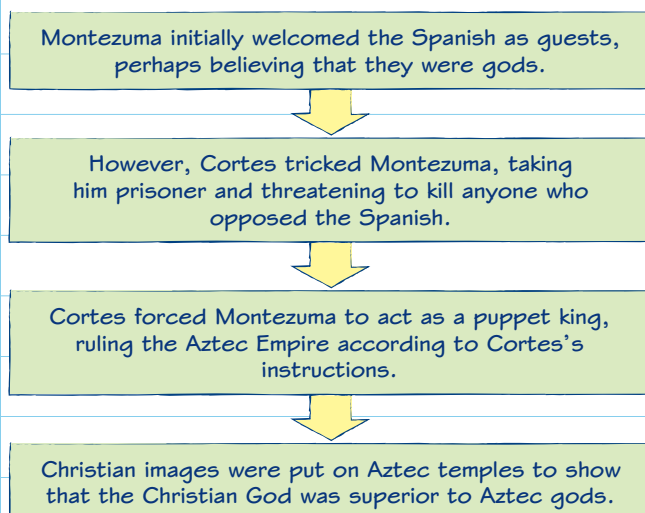
The massacre at Cholula

- On the way to Tenochtitlan, Cortes's soldiers entered Cholula and massacred 3000 people and destroyed the city, which was sacred to the Aztecs.
- This sent shock waves around the Aztec Empire and demonstrated the power of the Spanish.
- The Spanish and their Tlaxcalan allies now began to advance on Tenochtitlan.



The massacre at Cholula

The Spanish arrival in Tenochtitlan, 1519



The defeat of the Aztecs, 1520–21

- In April 1520, 1000 Spanish sent by Velázquez to arrest Cortes landed in Mexico.
- Leaving his deputy Alvarado in charge at Tenochtitlan, Cortes defeated Velázquez's forces, many of whom defected to Cortes.
- Alvarado, fearing a rebellion, killed the Aztec nobles who had defied him.
- This led to the Night of Tears (June 1520): the Aztecs turned on the Spanish, killing half and driving the rest of them and their Tlaxcalan allies out.
- Montezuma was killed, either by the Spanish as they fled the city or by his own people.
- Cortes and his allies regrouped and besieged Tenochtitlan, starving the inhabitants before attacking. On 13 August 1521, the city surrendered to the Spanish.

Now try this

Give **one** reason why the Spanish succeeded in capturing Tenochtitlan between November 1519 and August 1521.

Cortes's actions, 1523–28

The capture of Tenochtitlan marked the end of the Aztec Empire, enabling Cortes, as governor and captain-general, to turn Central America into New Spain.

Cortes's actions as governor and captain-general

Cortes built Mexico City on the site of Tenochtitlan, destroying all Aztec religious temples.

He allocated land to the Spaniards, encouraged others to settle there and set up the *encomienda* system.

See pages 8–11 for a reminder of what the *encomienda* system was.

He developed Mexican agriculture by importing sheep, goats, vines and silk worms from Cuba and Spain. One of his aims was to make Mexico self-sufficient in food.

In 1523, Cortes was named governor and captain-general of New Spain. Four royal officials were appointed to help him govern and keep an eye on him. They reported to the Council of the Indies and, through it, to the King.

Within a short time, Cortes had many of the Aztecs' political and religious leaders killed, leaving the people unable to challenge the Spanish.

He developed industry, including the manufacture of textiles, sugar cane and iron products.

Cortes took tributes from other tribal leaders, including the Tlaxcalans. This was normally paid in gold or maize.

Under Cortes, thousands of natives were converted to Christianity. From 1523 onwards hundreds of Franciscan friars went out to New Spain, where they founded the Church in Mexico.

Cortes, first governor of New Spain



Cortes: misrule and demotion, 1528

- Cortes was unpopular with some conquistadors – he was accused of **misrule** (governing badly), including stealing gold that he had found when the Spanish captured Tenochtitlan.
- Cortes returned to Spain to explain himself in 1528 and tried to impress Charles I with his conquests and the treasure he had collected for Spain.
- Charles **demoted** him to captain-general but allowed him to keep his land. However, the position of governor was given to a rival.

When someone is **demoted** or receives a **demotion**, they are moved to a lower status. This is often done as a punishment.

The extension of Spanish rule

- Spanish explorers were encouraged to launch expeditions to expand Spanish influence in Central America.

The explorers were motivated by the search for gold, and the story of El Dorado – a city paved with gold.

- Expeditions were sent to Zacatula on the Pacific coast and to Oaxaca, the main gold-producing region of Mexico.
- Cortes developed new cities, including Mexico City. He also developed mining, including iron and silver. Many natives were employed there, often as slaves.

The conquest of the huge Aztec Empire led Charles I to establish the Council of the Indies in 1524.

Now try this

Explain **two** ways in which Cortes tried to strengthen Spanish rule in Mexico.

Think about how Cortes's actions made the Aztecs weak and the Spanish strong.

Consequences for the Aztecs

The Spanish invasion had far-reaching effects for the Aztecs.

How were the Aztecs affected by the Spanish conquest of Mexico?

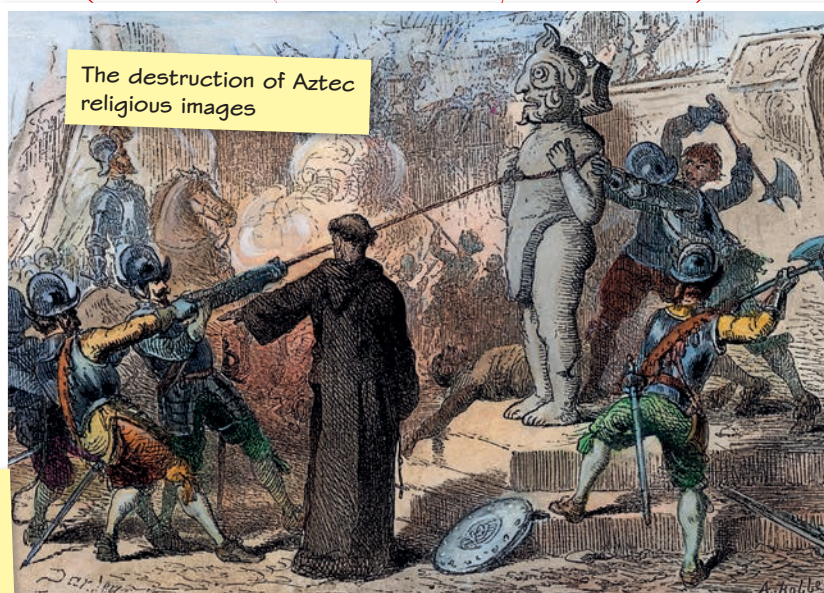
The destruction of the Aztec ruling class: The position of the emperor was abolished while the Aztec nobility and priests were executed, depriving the people of Aztec leadership.

The end of the Aztec Empire: The lands now became New Spain and part of a growing Spanish Empire. The governor was responsible for governing the territory on behalf of the Spanish king.

Intermarriage between the Spanish and the Aztecs: By 1550, three groups were established; the Spanish settlers, the Mestizo (people who were half Spanish/half native) and the Aztecs.

Religious conflict: The Aztec religion was abolished as blasphemy. Aztec priests were murdered and temples pulled down.

Colonisation: Spanish settlers were encouraged to come from Spain and Cuba and given land under the *encomienda* system. Less land was left for the Aztecs which meant that many could not provide for their families and had to work for the Spanish.



Language change: Spanish now became the main language in New Spain although native languages were still spoken.

See page 8 to revise how the *encomienda* system worked.

Forced conversion to Christianity: Many Aztecs did not want to convert, and worshipped the Christian God in public but their old gods in private.

Agricultural change: The Spanish introduced meat and dairy farming as well as wheat and other cereals, changing the diet of the natives.

Disease: The Aztecs were exposed to diseases, such as smallpox and measles. The population of Mexico in 1519 was about 25 million; by 1555 it was about 6.2 million. Disease was a significant factor in this fall in population.

Industrial change: The Spanish now mined iron, gold and silver, and grew cotton and tobacco commercially, all made possible by Aztec slave labour.

Aztec society accepted many Spanish systems as they were similar to some of their existing social structures.

Notice how some of the consequences for the Aztecs of the Spanish invasion are linked.

Remember to explain and not describe. To explain you need to say **how** or **why** the Aztecs were affected by the Spanish conquest.

Now try this

Explain **two** ways in which the Aztecs were affected by the Spanish conquest of Mexico.

Pizarro and Panama

Francisco Pizarro, a conquistador and mayor of Panama city, launched a series of expeditions southwards to find Peru, which eventually brought him into contact with the Incas.

Pizarro's ambitions

- ✓ Pizarro had been with Balboa in 1513 when the expedition reached the Pacific.

You can revise the journeys of Balboa on page 10.

- ✓ Pizarro was impressed by accounts of Cortes's success in Mexico.
- ✓ He had also heard stories from traders who told him of Inca wealth and about 'Pirú' – a great land to the south rich with gold.

Pizarro's first expedition, 1524

- ✓ In November 1524, Pizarro led an expedition southwards with about 80 men and 40 horses.
- ✓ This first expedition was not a success. It sailed down the Pacific coast, reaching only Colombia before bad weather, lack of food and attacks by hostile natives forced Pizarro to turn back.



Pizarro's expeditions in the New World

Pizarro's second expedition, 1526–27

In November 1526, Pizarro left Panama with two ships, 180 men and some horses.

He reached as far as the Colombian San Juan River.

He discovered and captured a raft containing silver, gold, silver and emeralds.

In spite of demands that Pizarro return to Panama, he and 13 other men ('The Famous Thirteen') decided to stay and explore the area further.

They journeyed southwards on an improvised vessel and found evidence of fabulous wealth, including gold and silver in northern Peru.

Pizarro returned to Panama in 1527.

Pizarro's appeal to the Spanish King Charles I

- In 1528, Pizarro returned to Spain with evidence of Inca wealth, including llamas, silver and gold.
- Having been refused permission to launch a third expedition by the governor of Panama, he appealed to Charles I, promising to 'extend the empire of Castile'.
- Pizarro received a licence, the *Capitulacion de Toledo*, in July 1529, authorising him to conquer Peru.

Now try this

In a short paragraph, describe the impact of Pizarro's second expedition to Peru, 1526–27.

Pizarro's arrival in Peru

Pizarro's third expedition arrived in Peru in 1532 to find an empire weakened by smallpox.

The Inca Empire

- Huayna Capac, the powerful Inca emperor, was worshipped as a god by his people.
- The empire stretched down the west coast of Latin America along the Andes mountains.
- It contained huge cities, temples and fortresses, linked by a network of roads.
- The empire was fabulously wealthy and contained gold and silver mines.

The significance of Huayna Capac's death

- In 1528, an outbreak of smallpox killed thousands of Incas, including many of Huayna Capac's advisers and generals, and then Huayna Capac himself.
- Huayna Capac left the empire to his two sons, Atahualpa and Huascar, who divided the empire between them. Atahualpa got the northern half and Huascar the southern half. This resulted in a civil war between the two rulers.

Atahualpa eventually defeated Huascar's army. He was afraid that Huascar would join the Spanish, and had him murdered.

Pizarro's third expedition, 1530–32

- Pizarro left Panama in December 1530, arriving in Ecuador in January 1531.
- He realised that the civil war between the brothers gave him a chance to seize power by attacking when the empire was divided, and weakened by disease.
- Pizarro arrived in Peru in April 1532 and approached Atahualpa's camp on 15 November 1532.
- When invited to take a ceremonial drink in gold cups, the Spanish poured the drink away and threatened the Incas by riding their horses near them.
- Atahualpa invited Pizarro to meet him the next day in the town square at Cajamarca, where they would be given lodgings at the palace.

Pizarro and Vicente deliberately engineered this situation, provoking Atahualpa and giving them the excuse to attack the Incas.



Pizarro declared the Inca Empire annexed by Spain. This included coastal areas such as Chile, which the Spanish began to explore in the 1530s.

The Battle of Cajamarca, 16 November 1532

- The Spanish arrived early and hid their men in ambush positions in the square.
- Atahualpa was offered a Christian Bible by Friar Vicente, but threw it on the ground, arguing that the Christian God was no better than those of the Incas.
- When Vicente argued that the Incas were heretics, the Spanish ambushed them, 'killing them like ants'. Thousands of Incas were killed and Atahualpa was taken prisoner.

Now try this

Create a timeline of events from Pizarro's departure for Peru in 1530 to the capture of Atahualpa.

Pizarro's conquest of Peru

In 1533, Pizarro had Atahualpa executed and installed Manco, his half-brother, on the throne, leading to the Inca revolt and the siege of Cuzco, 1536–37.

The murder of Atahualpa, 1533

- The Spanish agreed to ransom Atahualpa for a room full of gold and double the amount of silver.
- However, the Spanish did not release him. Instead they accused him of plotting against them and put him on trial for treason.
- Atahualpa was executed in Cajamarca town square as his Inca supporters pleaded for his life.

Pizarro puts Manco on the throne

- Pizarro marched from Cajamarca to Cuzco, the Inca capital, and was welcomed by the inhabitants, many of whom had hated Atahualpa's rule and the civil war.
- Pizarro had Manco, a younger son of Huayna Capac and half-brother of Atahualpa, crowned as the new Inca emperor.

For a reminder about the Inca Emperor Huayna Capac, go to page 18.

The revolt of the Incas, 1536

- The Spanish saw Manco as a puppet king who would rule on their behalf.
- This led to an Inca revolt when Manco escaped from the Spanish, assembled an army and attacked the Spanish base at Cuzco.



The Siege of Cuzco

The Siege of Cuzco, 1536–37

10000 Inca warriors faced 150 Spanish and 1000 native allies.

The Inca warriors broke into the town, burning buildings to try to drive out the Spanish, but the Spanish were able to put the fires out.

The Spanish used their cavalry to attack the Inca warriors.

The Spanish captured the fortress of Sacsahuaman from the Incas, which the Inca army then besieged.

The siege ended when Spanish forces exploring Chile returned.

Manco withdrew and established a separate kingdom (the Neo Inca State) which lasted until 1572.

Pizarro governed Peru until his death at the hands of rival conquistadors in 1541.

Pizarro and his government were based in Lima, the city they built in Peru. The conquistadors took gold, silver and other commodities from the area, shipping some back to Spain.

The Inca Empire was settled by Spaniards – not only conquistadors but also Spanish merchants who saw an opportunity to make money.

The impact of the conquest

The conquest led to the destruction of Inca civilisation. Many Incas were reduced to slavery and were joined by further slaves brought in from Africa.

Disease, especially smallpox and measles, devastated the Inca population, reducing it by 93 per cent by 1591.

Now try this

Give **two** reasons why the Incas revolted in 1536.

Discovery of silver in Bolivia and Mexico

The discovery of silver led to the development of mining towns with the increased use of slave labour, and brought significant wealth to the Spanish Empire.

The discovery of silver in the New World

- One of the conquistadors' principal motives for exploration was the discovery of gold and silver.
- By 1550, silver had been discovered in Potosi (Bolivia) and in Guanajuato and Zacatecas (Mexico).
- Some of it had to be sent back to Spain, but the conquistadors kept much of the wealth.

The Potosi silver mine in Bolivia



Silver mining and processing

- Deep mines were dug where there was no risk of flooding (pumps were not available).
- Silver ore was mined and brought to the surface.
- The ore was then **smelted** to extract the silver, which was turned into silver coins.
- Many workers were needed to bring the silver ore to the surface and to smelt the ore.
- Many pack animals were needed to move the silver.

See page 23 to revise the effect of silver on the Spanish economy.

Smelting is a process that uses high temperatures to extract metal.

The significance of silver in Bolivia and Mexico

The need for vast amounts of labour to extract and smelt the silver ore led to the development of mining towns at Potosi, Guanajuato and Zacatecas. They started as camps made up of tents but developed quickly into towns housing large numbers of people employed in mining.

This led to the circulation of rumours and legends that there was a vast amount of undiscovered wealth in the New World. The most famous example of this was El Dorado, the so-called 'City of Gold' which was rumoured to be somewhere in America.

This encouraged many Spanish merchants to invest in projects designed to explore the area further in the hope of finding more gold and silver, leading to further explorations and expeditions to California, Venezuela and Argentina during the 16th century.

This resulted in increased colonisation of the New World as the conquistadors were joined by adventurers, merchants and speculators, as well as their employees.

The vast amounts of silver produced by the mines boosted the wealth of the Spanish government. Silver bullion (in the form of blocks) was sent back to Spain on treasure ships. Of the silver that arrived back in Spain, 25 per cent went direct to the Spanish treasury.

The Spanish government had to find a way of directly controlling its colonies in the New World as a means of ensuring that it got its share of the wealth being generated.

Now try this

Explain **two** consequences for Spain of the discovery of silver in the Spanish Empire.