Chapter 11: Worldviews in Contact

Plaque catastrophe Franciscan order *encomienda* Mestizo

viceroy Creoles biodiversity

Name:

Read the opening story on pg. 237

Q: From which perspective is the text on the historical marker written? What does this suggest about Mexico’s society today?

A New Religion

During the final siege of Tenochtitlan, Aztec priests kept telling their leaders that if the Aztecs continued their and prayers, the gods would lead them to victory. Afterwards, when the Aztecs looked back on their suffering during the war and the defeat that followed, many felt that the had abandon them.

Cortes wrote to King Carlos, asking him to send “religious person of goodly life and character.” Three years after the conquest, priests dressing the plain grey robes of the order came off a Spanish ship at Veracruz. These priests travelled on foot over land to Tenochtitlan and when they arrived, Cortes knelt in the dirt and kissed the hem of their robes. The Aztecs who witnessed this were amazed as they had never seen a conquistador treat anyone with such respect.

Exploring Sources: Destroying Aztec Temples (pg. 240)

* Why were these actions necessary from the Fransiscan perspective?
* How might the destruction of their religious temples affect the Aztec sense of identity?

New Economy

In addition to their changing religion, the Aztecs were also forced to become part of a completely new system.

As soon as the Aztecs surrendered, the Spanish changed the economic system in Mexico by introducing the *encomienda* system.

Define *ecomienda* below:

* describe how it worked to make the Spanish Crown richer:

A New Worldview Emerges

As soon as the Aztecs surrendered, Cortes’s men threatened to . In Cuba, before setting out to Mexico, Cortes had promised to make them rich beyond their wildest dreams. In Tenochtitlan, they had seen Montezuma’s treasure rooms, loaded with gold and silver, and heard rumors of much more. During the long siege of the city, however, most of this treasure was sent back to .

The Spaniards had been fighting for years with no except what they could take in battle from the Aztecs. Cortes agreed that they deserved more and even wrote to Spain asking for their payment.

Cortes’s goal was to stay in Mexico and make it a colony of the powerful Spanish Empire. He needed his fighting men to help him in this mission.

Cortes’s Solution

Cortes put two policies in place to solve this problem.

1.

2.

A Changing Worldview (pg. 249)

What did Cortes achieve by giving his soldiers land grant sand getting them to marry?

1.

2.

Define “Mestizo” below:

* How did Cortes’s policies affect the population of Mexico today? (look at fig. 11-11)

The Independence Movement

King Carlos appointed Don Antonio de Mendoza to be the first of New Spain. Even though Cortes had fought the battles and began setting up the colonies in New Spain.

* Why would the King take away Cortes’s authority?

Discontent in New Spain

When the King took control of New Spain by appointing a royal representative (viceroy), this upset the people and discontent began to run through the colonies of New Spain. This would lead to a series of revolutions in which the colonies would ascertain independence. In , Mexico became an independent country from Spain.

🡪 Independence in other colonies of New Spain: research and discover

Mexican Culture Today

Mexican Artists and Writers

* Summarize the section below:

Frida Kahlo: Historical ID card

Diego Rivera: Historical ID card

Octavio Paz: Historical ID card