

[Spanish Reactions to Conquest]

SUBJECT [American History]	TEACHER [?]	GRADE [Elementary School]	DATE [November 13, 2020]
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OVERVIEW

- Not everyone in Spain believed their conquest of the Americas, and treatment of the native peoples, to be good. Many Spaniards fought against the atrocities being committed, and were able to bring about major social and legal reform, that was met with resistance by the Conquistadors who conquered the empire.

But the conquistadors aren't black and white, either. These men – and some women – came from many different ethnic backgrounds, including many Amerindian warriors, who fought with the Spanish as allies. Their motivation for fighting varied, but they were human, not all conquering evil doers.

Unit Goal

- Students will come to know who the Conquistadors were: men and women, European and Amerindian.
- They will meet men like Bartolome de Las Casas and Francisco de Vitoria, and be introduced to their life and efforts, to ease the atrocities committed against Spain's Indigenous subjects.
- Students will know what the Nueva Laws of 1542 were, and why they ultimately failed. How do these laws affect our understanding of Sixteenth century Spain?
- Begin to learn about historiography, and its value.

Schedule

- **Monday: The Conquistadors** - European and Mesoamerican conquistadors. Their status in life and origins. Motivations for coming out to the Americas. Why did so many Mesoamericans fight with the Spanish, against other Mesoamericans? What was the role of the few women who involved themselves in these conflicts?
- **Tuesday: Bartolome de Las Casas** – Early life and epiphany. What made him the champion of Indigenous rights? Who were the Dominicans, and why did he join them? What is Las Casas's legacy?
- **Wednesday: Francisco de Vitoria** – Who was de Vitoria, and what was his occupation? Lay out his argument against Spain's conquests in the Americas. Discuss.
- **Thursday: The Nueva Laws of 1542** –What were the Nueva Laws; discuss their consequences. Why did they ultimately fail? Define the Laws' legacy. What do these reforms tell us about sixteenth century Spain?
- **Friday: Historiography of the Spanish Conquest** – What is historiography? Describe its importance. How does it inform our understanding of the history of the Spanish conquest, and how it's remembered?

Resources

- Unit summaries on www.huntthepast.com. These units to be utilized at teacher's discretion: The Conquistadors, Bartolome de las Casas, Francisco de Vitoria, The Nueva Laws of 1542, Historiography of the Spanish Conquest.
- Books, particularly primary sources, provided in footnotes.

- Videos, books, images, activities, and maps provided by www.huntthepast.com, as well as any the instructor may deem appropriate, are to be utilized as teaching aids.

Essential Skills

- Understand who the Conquistadors were, their struggles, and why so many Amerindians fought alongside the invaders.
- Appreciate just how far Spain went to reform the major problems in its colonial empire.
- Begin to learn about Historiography. and its importance.