

CHAPTER
15
SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

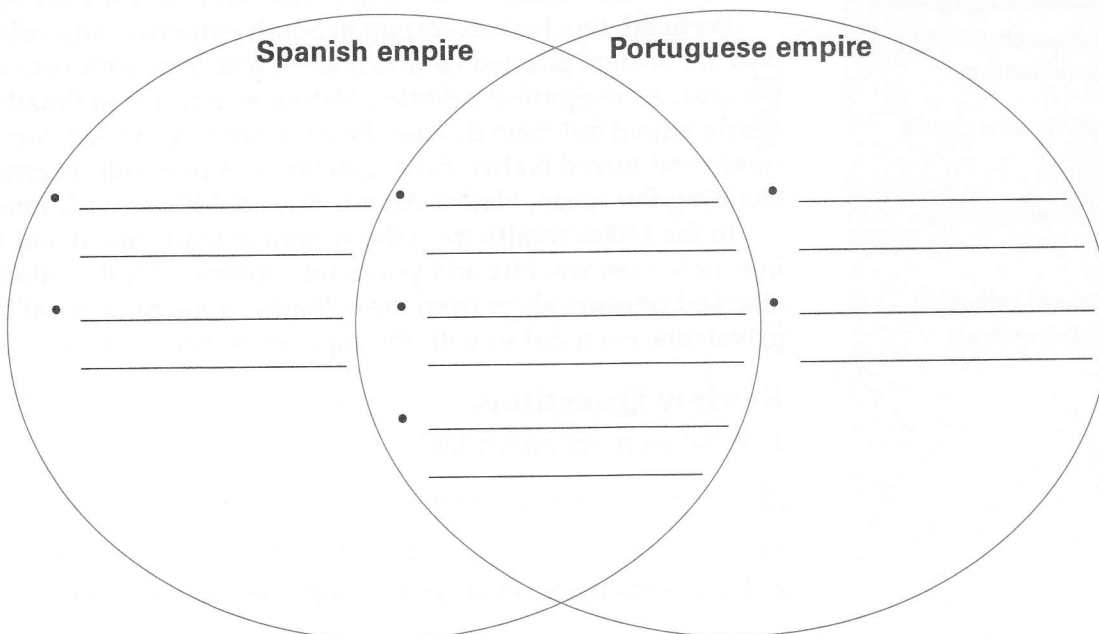
SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN THE AMERICAS

Focus Question: How did Spain and Portugal build colonies in the Americas?

- A. As you read "Ruling the Spanish Empire," fill in the chart below to record the steps the Spanish took to establish an empire in America.

Governing the empire	Catholic Church	Trade	Labor
• Viceroy	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____
• _____	• _____	• _____	• _____

- B. As you read "Colonial Society and Culture" and "Beyond the Spanish Empire," fill in the Venn diagram below to compare and contrast the Spanish and Portuguese empires.



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Section Summary

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READING CHECK

What was the name of the priest who pleaded with the Spanish king to end the abuse of Native Americans?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

In the underlined sentence, what do you think the word *drastic* means? Try to determine the meaning based on the context, or how and where it is used. Circle any nearby words or phrases that help you figure out the meaning of *drastic*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence Circle the event that happened first.

- Spanish colonies are closely monitored.
- The king of Spain appoints viceroys.
- Laws are passed banning enslavement of workers.

Spanish settlers and missionaries followed conquerors into the Americas. They built colonies and created a culture that blended European, Native American, and African traditions. By the mid-1500s, Spain's empire reached from modern California to South America.

The Spanish monarch appointed **viceroys**, or representatives who ruled in his name. They closely monitored Spanish colonies and managed their valuable raw materials. Conquistadors received **encomiendas**, or rights to demand work from Native Americans. Under this system, Native Americans were forced to work under brutal conditions. Disease, starvation, and cruel treatment caused a drastic decline in the Native American population. A priest, **Bartolomé de Las Casas**, begged the Spanish king to end the abuse, and laws were passed in 1542, banning enslavement and mistreatment. But Spain was too far away to enforce the laws. Some landlords forced people to become **peons**, paid workers who labored to repay impossibly high debts created by the landlord. To fill a labor shortage, colonists also brought in millions of Africans as slaves.

Blending of diverse cultures resulted. Native Americans contributed building styles, foods, and arts. The Spanish introduced Christianity and the use of animals, especially horses. Africans contributed farming methods, crops, and arts.

However, society in the colonies was strictly structured. **Peninsulares**, or people born in Spain, filled the highest positions. Next were **creoles**, or American-born descendants of Spanish settlers. Lower groups included **mestizos**, people of Native American and European descent, and **mulattoes**, people of African and European descent. At the bottom were Native Americans and African slaves.

Portugal, too, had an empire in South America, with colonies in Brazil. Portugal granted land to nobles, who sent settlers to develop the area. As in Spanish colonies, Native Americans in Brazil were nearly wiped out from disease. Brazil's rulers also used African slaves and forced Native American labor. A new culture emerged, blending European, Native American, and African traditions.

In the 1500s, wealth from the Americas made Spain and Portugal Europe's most wealthy and powerful countries. Pirates often attacked treasure ships from the colonies. Some pirates, called **privateers**, even did so with the support of their nations' monarchs.

Review Questions

1. What were encomiendas?

2. How were the Spanish and Portuguese colonies similar?
