Chapter 19: The Diversity of American Colonial Societies (1530-1770)

1. The Columbian Exchange (pg. 472)
   1. The **Columbian Exchange** refers to the transfer of peoples, animals, plants, and diseases between the New and Old Worlds
   2. The domesticated livestock and major agricultural crops of the Old World has spread throughout the New World
   3. The New World’s staple crops had enriched the agricultures of Europe, Asia, and Africa
   4. Old World diseases devastated indigenous peoples
2. Demographic Changes
   1. Natives of the New World lacked immunity to diseases that came from the Old World
      1. According to one estimate, the population of Central Mexico fell from between 13 and 25 million to approximately 700,000
      2. The Maya population decreased by 75%
      3. The Inca population fell from 9 million to 600,000
   2. Smallpox, which arrived in 1518, was the deadliest of these early epidemics
   3. Other diseases included measles, typhus, and influenza
   4. By the mid 17th century, malaria and yellow fever were present in the tropical regions
3. Transfer of plants and animals
   1. Old World staples such as wheat, olives, and grapes, were all being grown in the New World within a short period of time
   2. African and Asian crops, such as rice, bananas, and sugar cane, soon followed
   3. In exchange, New World crops such as maize (corn), potatoes, and cassava changed Old World diets
   4. Many believe that the exchange of these crops helped create a population boom after 1700
   5. European livestock, including cattle, pigs, horses, and sheep, found few predators and plenty of grazing lands in the New World
   6. The animal that made the largest impact on indigenous populations was the horse, radically changed warfare and hunting practices
4. Spanish America and Brazil
   1. Early colonial societies sought to create colonial societies based on the institutions and customs of their homelands
      1. Class, Catholicism, and patriarchy were all vital to the Spanish and Portuguese way of life
   2. Indigenous groups fought to protect their own values and cultural beliefs within these new colonies
   3. The African slave trade added a third cultural stream to colonial Latin American society
5. State and Church
   1. In 1524, the Spanish created the **Council of Indies**, which gave the Spanish monarchy total authority over all colonial interests
   2. However, due to the long distance between Spain and the colonies, it was difficult to fully enforce any laws or decrees made by the king or queen
   3. This meant that the colonial governors and viceroys of New Spain and Portugal had large amounts of power
   4. Viceroys of Spain included New Spain, Peru, New Granada, and La Plata
   5. In the 16th century, Portugal concentrated more on colonies in Asia and Africa and did not fund major projects in Brazil
   6. The Catholic Church was in charge of religious conversion and the promotion of intellectual life
   7. Spain and Portugal justified their American conquests by assuming an obligation to convert the Native populations to Christianity
   8. **Barolome de Las Casas** was an influential priest who fought to protect the rights of Native Americans
6. Colonial Economies
   1. The silver mines of Peru and Mexico and the sugar plantations of Brazil dominated the economic development of Latin America
   2. In order to mine silver or create goods, Native peoples were forced to work in the **encomienda** system, where they provided for the Spanish
   3. Over time, many indigenous people moved to work in the silver mines full time and left their villages, forever changing their way of life
   4. This vast silver trade allowed Spain to create a global empire that spread around the globe
   5. The mining of silver also led to more urbanization in Latin America
7. Society in Colonial Latin America
   1. Very few members of Spain’s noble families lived in the Spanish colonies
   2. There were some members of lower nobility and other Spanish peoples but the flow of immigrants from Spain was never large
   3. Most people in the colonies were indigenous people, Africans, **creoles** (whites born in America to European parents), and people of mixed ancestry
   4. **Mestizo**: Half European/Creole, half Native American
   5. **Mulattoes**: Half European/Creole, half African
   6. These mixed-descent groups were called castas
      1. Casta paintings were created to demonstrate the colonial hierarchy