

# Mexican Foundations

## Lecture 1

# Key Points

- Understand themes about Mexico as a Spanish colony.
- Meet races and ethnicities which made up Mexico from colonial status to present.
- Observe the reasons for revolution and the outcomes.
- See the beginning of governmental questions which will plague the country for a long time.

# Native Americans in Mexico

- Aztecs, based at Tenochtitlan—
- Ruled over an empire
- Rivals



[http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied\\_history/tutor/eurvoya/aztec.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/eurvoya/aztec.html)

# Cortes and Conquistadores

- Conquistadores
- Cortés's ambitions, riches
- Aztecs' enemies help Cortez.
- Smallpox epidemic for Aztecs.
- Tenochtitlan taken: 1521.



# New Spain



Antonio  
Mendoza

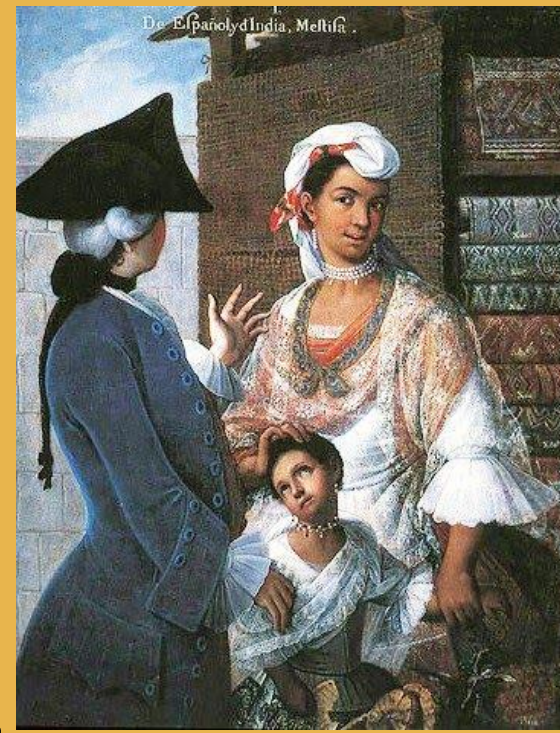
<http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/mendoza.htm>

- Gold-hungry Spaniards explore new lands.
- First viceroy (vice-king): Mendoza (1535-1550)
- Spain:
  - controls region.
  - calls resistance rebellion.
  - uses viceroy system for three centuries.



# Race in New Spain

- *Peninsular*: Elite, Spanish-born.
- *Criollo*: American-born Spanish.
- *Mestizo*: Parents Indian + Spanish.
- *Mulatto*: Spanish + Black
- African: Slave or free.
- Indigenous peoples and nations: Amerindians

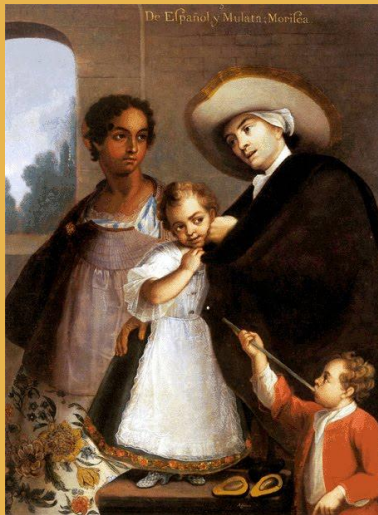


<http://bjws.blogspot.com/2011/09/18th-century-latin-american-family.html>



# Observations

- Previous list only partial.
- Mexico:
  - Has more multi-racial children than U.S.
  - Values partial white ancestry over none at all.



Pictures from  
18<sup>th</sup> century, but  
idea is the same

# Demographics

- From the early 1500s to the late 1700s:
- White population:  
thousands to over a million.
- Indian population:  
drops from 25 to 1 million then rebounds.



# Religion in Spain

- Reconquista completed: 1492.

- Inquisition guarantees

Catholic dominance.

- No Reformation in Spain.
- Conversion of New World.

# Fathers and Franciscans



<http://www.trazzler.com/trips/old-mission-santa-barbara-in-santa-barbara-ca-27074>

- In Mexico
  - Priests social and religious force.
  - Religious orders make converts.
  - Franciscans, Augustinians, Jesuits.

# Church Authority in New Spain

- Bishops divided territory.
- Regulated beliefs.
- Mexican Inquisition, 1571.
- Outlaws non-Catholic beliefs.



Left: Pedro Moya de Contreras, began Inquisition. Later viceroy.

Right: Juan de Palafox y Mendoza (1600-1659) served as bishop of Puebla and viceroy.



# Success of Conversion

- Many converts.
- Blending of beliefs.
- Native Virgin de Guadalupe, held sway from 16<sup>th</sup> century.



# Prelude to Revolution

- Unrest in Mexico.
- Small conspiracies throughout 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Discontent among natives, criollos.

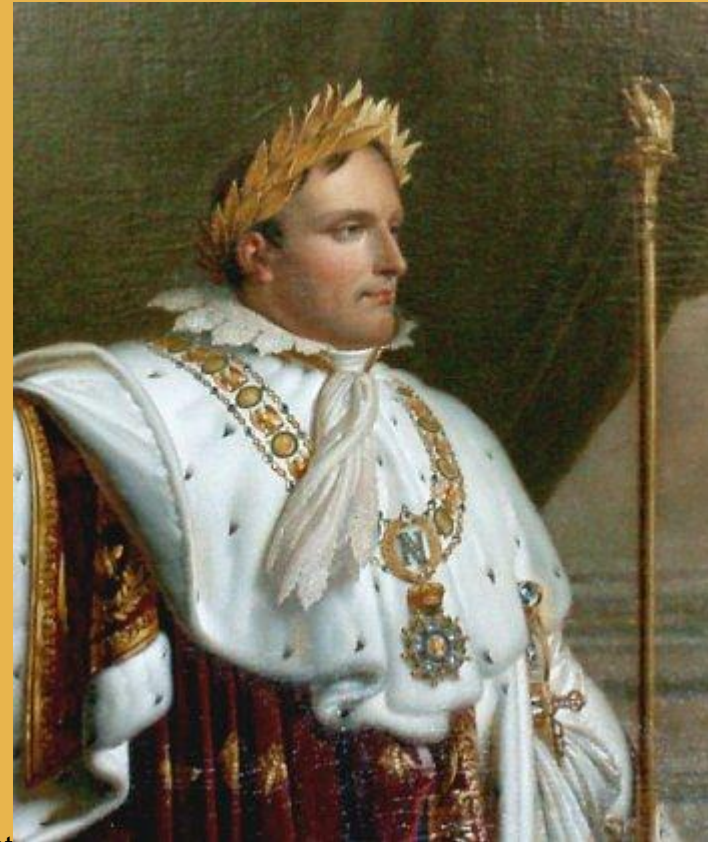
# The Bonapartes

- 1808, Napoleon in Europe
  - Makes Joseph Bonaparte king of Spain.
  - Shakes confidence of colonies.



Portrait of Joseph  
Bonaparte, by  
Francois Kinszen

Napoleon  
Bonaparte





# Revolutionary Ideas

In the years before independence Mexico:

Represented at Cortes.

Wonders where authority lies.



Cortes de Cadiz  
1810-1812

<http://lacavernadelescriba.blogspot.com/2011/10/la-cortes-de-cadiz-y-la-constitucion-de.html>



# Miguel Higaldo y Costilla



<http://www.labamba.com.mx/?p=15363>

- Born 1753/Killed 1811.
- Criollo priest of Dolores.
- Rebels 1810
- Led Mestizoes, Indians.

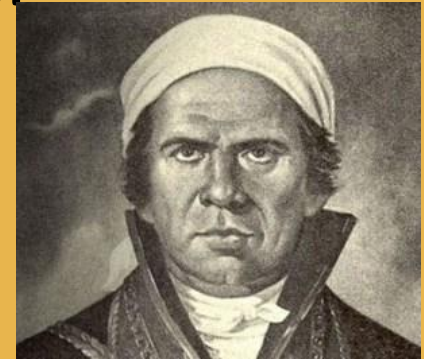
# Protracted Revolution

- Revolution lasts 1810-1821.
- Leaders include
  - José María Morelos y Pavon (1811-1815).
  - Leaders of guerilla forces.
  - Vincente Guerrero.



Guerrero

<http://www.dipity.com/tubicenari/Independencia-de-Mexico/>



Morelos

<http://mitierramichoacana.wordpress.com/2011/09/30/jose-maria-morelos-y-pavon-icono-de-michoacan-simbolo-de-mexico/>

# Augustín de Iturbide

- Spanish officer with rocky career.
- Put at head of troops.
- Defects in 1821.



Iturbide embraces  
Guerrero

# What kind of Independence?

- Monarchy or Republic?
- Centralism or Federalism?
- Liberal or Conservative?
- (Or somewhere in between?)

# Emperor Agustín

- Plan de Iguala.
- Caudillo.
- Faced opposition.

