

NEW FORMS OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND MODES OF PRODUCTION

This unit includes new agricultural inventions and labor (such as newly identified crops, and crop and field rotation), new manufacturing and commercial patterns (especially in long distance trade), gender and social structure, and environmental processes.

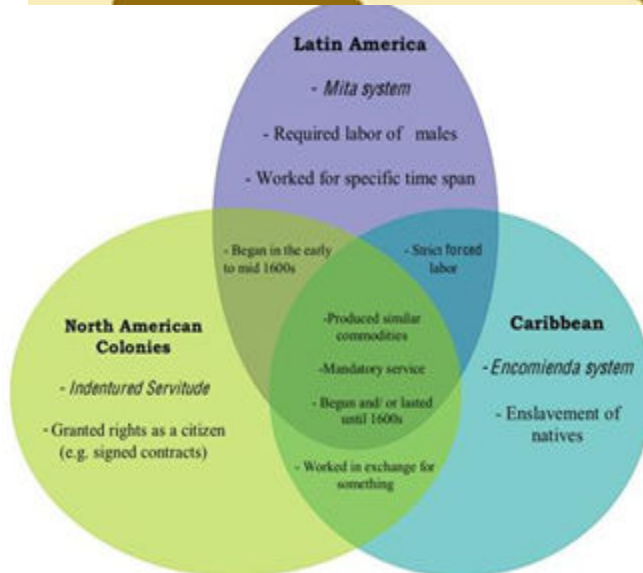
Peasant labor intensified in main regions due to agricultural changes and plantation expansion. The increase in crop (such as corn and wheat) made America a primary exporter of food to China and Europe, which resulted in a drastic population increase. Europe sent many domesticated animals to the Americas, which made their everyday life more efficient. Europeans also brought diseases to America which killed a vast majority of the indigenous population, which left America in need for new workers.

One example is cotton textile production in India. In the “Age of Commerce” India was the world’s main exporter of cotton cloth. Indian techniques of production were far more advanced than the European’s.



Slave trade increased due to an increased demand of workers in the New World. They were necessary to the development of the plantations. The trade network between Africa, Europe, and the Americas is called the *Triangular Trade Route*. Their ships held hundreds of African slaves, all of which were put under inhumane conditions, causing many deaths every voyage. African slaves were sold at slave markets in the New

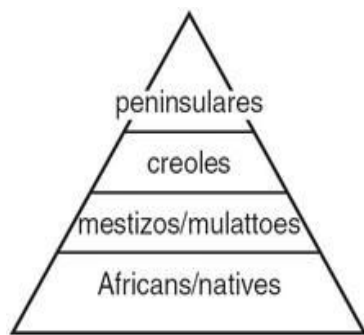
World; the profits were used to purchase plantation products such as sugar, tobacco, and cotton, which were shipped back to Europe. The male slaves worked on tobacco, sugar, and rice plantations, as the females did household labor.



Coerced Labor:

- Indentured servants were required to do 4-7 years of work for free passage to America. Unlike slaves, they were granted their freedom after their services. Most died from diseases or overwork before gaining freedom.

- Encomienda systems consisted of a powerful Spanish elite granting a citizen a certain number of natives that they were to take care of. If they taught the natives the Spanish language and enforced the Catholic faith, then they were able to use the natives any way they wished.
- Mita was a form of community service that Inca government required from Inca males starting at 15 years old. They were used in public services after they fulfilled their duty for their own land and family. Inca males were used on building of their extensive road network. In 1605 Colonial administrators introduced the Mita system of force labor used by the Spanish for mining gold and silver for the Crown. Ultimately the Mita system became slavery under the guise of educating and converting the local people to Catholicism.
- B. Imperial conquests and global trade contribute to the formation of new political and economic elites. In the Latin America, Spanish wanted to bring indigenous people into Catholic faith. Many Spaniard intermarried with Native Americans and later with African-Americans creating a new civilization .In this mixed society the Spaniard born in Europe were at the top of the social pyramid (peninsulares) followed by the Spaniards born in America (creoles). Creoles controlled society in New Spain. Next were mixed Spanish and Native American (mestizos) and mixed Spanish and black (mulattos). At the bottom were Native Americans and blacks.



- New elites in the world confronted new challenges. For example, the Zamindars during the Mughal period served the state as an agency for collecting revenue from peasants. They did not own land but exercised considerable local influence in administrative and social affairs. They also commanded armed forces and had fortresses. The peasants and the Zamindars were allies in the struggle against the Mughal government.
- Some gender and family restructuring occurred like smaller size of European families, they did not need many children to work the land and they started to enjoy their children more.
- Because of the slave trade, the population of individual African nations increased to supply the New World with labor. The continuation of trade networks helped to blend multiple races together and mix culture.