

Latin America in the Modern World Instructor Test Bank

Prologue

1. Which of the following is true?

- a) Pre-colonial Latin America did not produce densely populated, complex civilizations.
- *b) Latin America's rivers did not generally serve as routes for trade and navigation in the pre-colonial era.
- c) The Inka, Aztec, and Maya were the only agricultural peoples of pre-colonial Latin America.
- d) The Inka, Aztec, and Maya were the only sedentary peoples of pre-colonial Latin America.

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2. Among the achievements of the Maya were

- a) A sophisticated writing system.
- b) A network of roads.
- c) A precise calendar system.
- *d) All of the above.

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3. Aztec society

- a) Demanded massive human sacrifice for religious purposes.
- b) Was marked by great disparity in wealth between a military and religious elite and the common people
- c) Extracted burdensome taxes and tribute from its subjects.
- *d) All of the above.

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4. Which of the following was NOT a major food source in Latin America before the arrival of Europeans?

- a) Corn.
- b) Potatoes.
- *c) Wheat.
- d) Avocados.

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5. Continuities between the Spanish empire in the Americas and its indigenous predecessors include

- a) The core geographical areas of Spanish rule.
- b) The extraction of forced labor from the subject populations.
- c) The attempt to spread or impose the ruling elite's religion
- *d) All of the above.

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6. Which of the following is FALSE?

- a) Some enslaved Africans earned their freedom by fighting as soldiers in the Spanish conquistador armies.
- *b) Slavery was limited to Brazil and the Caribbean islands.
- c) Slaves were forbidden from learning skilled trades such as metalworking or carpentry, to prevent them taking jobs from free workers.
- d) Slavery in urban areas did not rely on physical coercion and corporal punishment as it did on plantations.

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7. Which of the following is FALSE?

- a) A treaty with Portugal and an edict from the Pope gave most of the territory of the Americas to Spain.
- b) The Spanish generally took their mission to spread Catholicism in the Americas very seriously.
- *c) Protestant countries such as England respected Spain and Portugal's claims in the Americas.
- d) Conquistadores used the conquest and exploitation of the Americas to adopt titles and prestige that in Europe were reserved for hereditary nobility.

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8. In Portuguese Brazil

- *a) Competition from a Mexican product led to the collapse of the first major export industry.
- b) The surviving indigenous population kept control of the coasts, forcing the Portuguese and African slaves up the rivers into the interior.
- c) The colonists invented a new model of slave labor and sugar plantations that they then replicated in other colonies such as Madeira.
- d) The indigenous Tupí were much more numerous and their demographic collapse much less severe than in Spanish America, making indigenous people a preponderant factor over the African presence.

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9. Which of the following best characterizes Spanish administrative authority in the Americas?

- a) Representatives of the colonists shaped colonial policy through their participation in the legislature in Spain.
- b) The Spanish monarch's orders were usually carried out without question, on pain of death.
- *c) Officials in the colonies could ignore or selectively enforce Spanish dictates without questioning the overall legitimacy of Spanish authority.
- d) Colonial officials kept their personal and business interests separate from their administrative responsibilities.

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10. Which of the following was NOT a factor that urged Spain to reform its colonial administration in the eighteenth century?

- *a) Spanish settlers complained that they could not get work due to competition from cheap indigenous and African labor.
- b) The cost of military and naval defense against pirates and smugglers was rising.
- c) The colonies were no longer operating profitably.
- d) The semi-annual fleet system caused volatile prices and was vulnerable to loss.

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11. Territorial and administrative changes in Spanish America in the 17th and 18th centuries included all of the following EXCEPT

- a) Doubling the number of viceroyalties from two to four.
- b) Losing control of Haiti (Santo Domingo) and Jamaica.
- *c) Granting independence to the isolated province of Chile.
- d) Granting legal trading privileges (the *asiento*) to the British.

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12. Which of the following was NOT one of the goals of the eighteenth-century reforms?

- a) To raise revenue for the Crown through more efficient and effective taxation.
- b) To reduce corruption in colonial administration.
- *c) To improve the position of the American-born *criollos* relative to the Iberian-born *peninsulares*.
- d) To defend the colonies against external attack.

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13. Which of the following was NOT a source of discontent in the colonies at the start of the nineteenth century?

- a) Enlightenment ideas about progress and the rights of citizens.
- b) Strict and hierarchical racial categorization and prejudice.
- *c) The decline of agricultural production and of once-thriving industries such as mining.
- d) The increasing tax burden on even the poorest subjects of the empires.

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14. On the whole, the eighteenth-century reforms

- a) Weakened Spain's hold on its colonies but strengthened Portugal's hold on Brazil.
- b) Weakened Portugal's hold on Brazil but strengthened Spain's hold on its colonies.
- *c) Served both monarchies' economic and administrative goals in the short term, but left longstanding and new sources of discontent unresolved.
- d) Had little effect on the colonies as the reforms were too shallow and were often reversed.

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15. Which of the following was NOT one of the signs of trouble in the colonies in the late eighteenth century?

- a) Violent rebellions in the Andean region.
- *b) The new openness of the colonial bureaucracy to people of color.
- c) Famines in Mexico.
- d) The tendency of *peninsular* elites to marry only among themselves.

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Chapter 1

1. Which of the following was NOT an important external factor contributing to Latin American independence movements?

- *a) Support for the economic theory of mercantilism.
- b) The Enlightenment idea that a government derived its legitimacy from the consent of its people.
- c) The examples of the French and American Revolutions.
- d) Napoleon's invasion of the Iberian Peninsula.

Please see page 12-13. of Latin America in the Modern World.

2. Under the Bourbon reforms, *criollos* born in the New World

- a) Were encouraged to apply for jobs in the colonial administration in order to ensure their families' loyalty.
- b) Were forbidden from amassing economic power by owning large estates.
- *c) Were eventually forbidden from becoming Catholic priests.
- d) Gained limited representation in the Spanish parliament.

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3. The slave uprising that began in Saint Domingue in August 1791

- *a) Began after peaceful petitions to the French government for racial equality on the island had failed.
- b) Was sparked by the shocking rape of a slave girl by her French master.
- c) Was quickly and violently suppressed by French and British forces.
- d) Exposed the ideological differences between liberal and conservative French planters.

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4. The Haitian Revolution

- a) Put an end to the conflicts between the *gens de couleur* and the *noirs*.
- b) Was hindered by diseases that decimated the black population while leaving Europeans unscathed.
- c) Left the pre-revolutionary racial hierarchy of the island largely undisturbed.
- *d) Served as a warning to the white populations of the rest of the hemisphere about the dangers

of slave insurrection, race war, and colonial independence.

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5. Miguel Hidalgo and José María Morelos

- a) Were the two great rivals for leadership of post-independence Mexico.
- b) Were exemplary priests who convinced the Catholic bishops of New Spain to support independence.
- c) Were both skilled military commanders in rural and urban guerrilla warfare.
- *d) Tried but ultimately failed to fully reconcile the diverging goals and priorities of their diverse supporters.

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6. King Ferdinand VII of Spain

- a) Was installed as a puppet monarch by the British in 1808, prompting a crisis of legitimacy in the Spanish colonies.
- b) Made wise concessions to the autonomist movement in New Spain (Mexico) in order to preserve his rule.
- *c) Was a divisive figure among the people of Mexico who held different views of the monarchy.
- d) Ruled more liberally and effectively after being restored to his throne.

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7. Which of the following is NOT TRUE about the *juntas* formed in Spanish America after 1808?

- a) They allowed people to affirm their loyalty to the true Bourbon king.
- *b) They generally represented the most radical elements of *criollo* politics.
- c) They allowed the people of the colonies to begin to experiment with governing themselves.
- d) They provided an opportunity to address grievances built up during the Bourbon period.

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8. Simón Bolívar

- a) Was like most *criollos* in that he opposed independence until well after the political crisis began.
- b) Inspired his soldiers by appealing to their shared humble upbringing.
- *c) Lacked formal military training but built a reputation as an effective if often ruthless commander.
- d) Was betrayed by his comrade Francisco de Miranda and spent years in a Spanish prison.

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9. Which of the following was NOT an obstacle to the independence of Venezuela?

- a) Fears of a race war given that perhaps half of the population was *pardo*.

- b) The *llanero* cavalry commanded by Tomás Boves.
- c) Two major earthquakes that struck Caracas and other towns in 1812.
- *d) The assembly's unanimous decision to grant full citizenship rights to *pardos* under the First Republic.

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10. The last holdout of Spanish power in South America to be liberated was

- *a) Peru and Upper Peru (Bolivia).
- b) Colombia.
- c) Venezuela.
- d) Chile.

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11. Sugar cane

- *a) Helped put an end to the relative neglect of Spain's Caribbean islands after the sixteenth century.
- b) Was the only Spanish Caribbean cash crop tended by indentured white labor.
- c) Helped revive the indigenous population of the Caribbean by creating new employment.
- d) Had only a minor effect on the demographic and economic history of the Spanish Caribbean.

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12. Conspirators in failed uprisings in late-colonial Portuguese Brazil included all of the following EXCEPT

- a) Petty tradesmen.
- b) Intellectuals and writers.
- *c) Catholic clergy.
- d) Disaffected officers and soldiers.

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13. Changes to the political culture in Rio de Janeiro and Brazil as a whole under Dom João included

- a) A crackdown on the circulation of information through libraries and the press.
- *b) The rise of a culture of political patronage and favor-seeking.
- c) The relative weakening of Brazilian elites who lost their leverage in negotiations with Lisbon.
- d) A growing movement to abolish the monarchy and proclaim an independent republic.

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14. José Bonifácio Andrada e Silva

- a) Opposed the abolition of slavery because that would threaten Brazilian prosperity.
- b) Resisted public education as a threat to the Church.
- *c) Was an enlightened reformer constrained by the conservative politics of his context.

d) Was exiled for plotting against the royal family.

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15. Both Ferdinand VII of Spain and João VI of Portugal

- *a) Lost their American possessions because they could not reconcile the colonists' desires for equality or autonomy with the traditions of monarchy and Iberian supremacy.
- b) Were betrayed by the British into surrendering their American empires.
- c) Ultimately put the interests of colonial elites above those of the nobility in Spain and Portugal.
- d) Lost their thrones in Europe but founded new dynasties in the New World.

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Chapter 2

1. Factors encouraging the strength of regionalism in Latin America included all of the following EXCEPT

- a) Local historical experiences and cultural particularities such as diet.
- b) Geographical barriers such as mountain ranges.
- *c) Religious differences between Christian denominations.
- d) The emergence of political *caudillos* with local and regional power bases.

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2. The Federation of the Andes was a less ambitious scheme than Bolívar's Gran Colombia.

- a) True.
- *b) False.

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3. Factors weakening Gran Colombia included all of the following EXCEPT

- *a) Britain's refusal to offer a much-needed loan.
- b) The effect of free trade on domestic cloth manufacturers.
- c) The costs of maintaining a large and expensive army.
- d) The regional political ambitions of José Antonio Páez and Juan José Flores.

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4. After Bolívar's death in 1830

- *a) Would-be builders of supra-states fought wars across South America into the 1860s.
- b) The dream of a South American federation died with him.
- c) His failures discredited his vision in the eyes of his former lieutenants.
- d) Gamarra and Santa Cruz put aside their rivalry to honor the Liberator's memory.

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5. Iturbide's Mexican Empire

- a) Did away with the internal administrative boundaries of the colonial Viceroyalty of New Spain.
- *b) Pleased conservatives by retaining monarchy as a unifying principle, but disappointed them by elevating a criollo rather than a European prince to the throne.
- c) Effectively maintained civilian control over the military through generous pay and promotions for officers.
- d) Discredited the principle of monarchy in Mexico after Iturbide's demise.

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6. Upon Iturbide's demise, Texas, California, and Chiapas joined the Central American provinces in declaring independence.

- a) True.
- *b) False.

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7. Which of the following was NOT a source of financial problems for Mexico's government in the 1820s and 1830s?

- a) The fact that state governments rather than the central government controlled much of the tax revenue.
- b) The tax-exempt status of the Catholic Church.
- c) The difficulty of obtaining foreign loans and investment after the global Panic of 1825.
- *d) The costs of compensating slaveowners for their human property when slavery was abolished.

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8. In Central America from the colonial period through the Mexican Empire and into the founding of the United Provinces, the provincial or regional political elites retained considerable control over day-to-day affairs, regardless of where central authority nominally resided.

- *a) True.
- b) False.

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9. Texas existed as a republic independent from both Mexico and the US for nearly a decade in the 1830s-1840s.

- *a) True.
- b) False.

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10. Which of the following was NOT a cause of the US-Mexican War?

- a) The disputed boundaries of Texas.
- b) The refusal of Mexico's government to sell upper California to the US.
- *c) The abolition of slavery in Texas as a condition of its annexation to the US.
- d) The prevailing ideology of Manifest Destiny in the United States.

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11. As a result of the US-Mexican War, Mexico ceded roughly half of its territory to the United States.

- *a) True.
- b) False.

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12. The Ragamuffin (*Farroupilha*) Revolt

- a) Demonstrated that republicanism and economic modernization were incompatible with slaveholding.
- b) Took its name from the lower-class origins of the rebel leaders.
- c) Saw African-born Muslims rebel against slavery and white supremacy.
- *d) Combined economic grievances with regionalist and anti-monarchical sentiments.

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13. Which of the following was NOT a vital component of the Argentine economy in this period?

- a) The raising of livestock on the vast grasslands.
- *b) The flow of silver down the Río de la Plata.
- c) The influx of foreign, especially British, investment.
- d) The leasing or sale of frontier lands taken from indigenous peoples.

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14. In contrast to the other Central American states and provinces, Costa Rica

- *a) Had relatively small populations of indigenous and African descent.
- b) Effectively built on an indigenous tradition of monarchy to preserve the unity of the state.
- c) Had an economy that relied almost totally on forced labor on plantations.
- d) Had extensive overland and maritime links to the rest of the region.

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15. Which of the following is FALSE about the caudillo phenomenon of nineteenth-century Spanish America?

- a) Caudillos had often made important military contributions in the wars for independence.
- b) Caudillos could contribute to political stability, as well as division and violence.
- *c) Uncouth provincial caudillos of questionable backgrounds like José Antonio Páez faced insurmountable social barriers to entering the highest levels of political life.

d) Their followers benefited from their deeds through material rewards and a sense of local or regional pride.

Please see page 89-95 of Latin America in the Modern World.