Chapter 3 section 2 Objectives

• Explain how Spain ruled its empire in the Americas.

• Analyze the major features of Spanish colonial society and culture.

• Describe how Portugal and other European nations challenged Spanish power.
How did Spain and Portugal build colonies in the Americas?

1. Spanish settlers and missionaries followed the conquistadors to the new empire in the Americas.

2. They established colonies and imposed their will by force. A new culture merged European, Native American, and African elements.
Spain controlled a huge empire by the mid-1500s.

- It divided the conquered lands into four provinces.
- The king appointed **viceroys** to rule in the provinces and established the Council of the Indies to monitor them.
One of Spain’s main goals in the Americas was to spread Christianity.

- As a result, Church leaders shared authority with royal officials.

- Missionaries built churches and introduced European clothing and the Spanish language.
Spain closely controlled trade throughout its empire.

Colonists could export raw material only to Spain.

They could only buy Spanish manufactured goods.

Trade with other European nations was forbidden by law.
Sugar cane was introduced to the West Indies and became profitable.

It was grown on plantations that needed a large number of workers.

The Spanish used an encomienda system, in which labor could be demanded from Native Americans in mines and on plantations. But the native population had decreased.
Native American Population of Central Mexico

SOURCE: Nicolás Sánchez-Albornoz, The Population of Latin America
Not everyone agreed that Spanish treatment of the Native Americans was fair.

- A priest named **Bartolomé de Las Casas** condemned the encomienda system and pleaded with the king to end it.

- **Spain passed the New Laws of the Indies in 1542.** Many natives were still forced to become **peons**, or workers forced to labor to pay off debts.
European, African, and Native American cultures began to blend together to form a distinct culture in the Spanish colonies.

They were forced to work as slaves in the fields, mines, and households of landowners.

The Spanish started bringing millions of Africans to the Americas by the 1530s.
Cultural blending changed people’s lives in the Americas.

Food, religion, clothing, dance, songs, styles of building, and farming methods were all exchanged.
In addition, the composition of the population shifted.
Spanish colonial society was made up of layered social classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>peninsulares</strong></td>
<td>People born in Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>creoles</strong></td>
<td>American-born descendants of Spanish settlers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>mestizos and mulattoes</strong></td>
<td>Those of Native American and European descent and people of African and European descent, respectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Native American and African</strong></td>
<td>Those whose heritage did not include Europeans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spanish settlers lived in towns and cities and established universities.

- The cities were lively centers of government, commerce, and cultural expression.
- Mexico City became the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world by 1550.
- The University of Mexico was established by 1551.
in 1494 Portugal claimed an empire in the east part of the continent.

- The country issued grants of land to nobles, and **settlers came to build towns and plantations.**

- They cut and exported brazilwood, raised cattle, and ran plantations.
Other European nations grew jealous of Spain and Portugal’s wealth and control in the Americas.

- Smugglers traded illegally with Spanish colonists.
- Pirates called privateers operated with the approval of European governments.
Terms and People

- viceroy
  - a representative of the king; ruled in his name

- encomienda
  - the right given to American colonists by the Spanish government to demand labor or tribute from Native Americans

- Bartolomé de Las Casas
  - a bold Spanish priest who spoke out against the evils of the encomienda system and pleaded with the king to end the abuse

- peon
  - a worker forced to work to pay off a debt
• **peninsular**
  – member of the highest class in Spain’s colonies in the Americas

• **creole**
  – an American-born descendant of Spanish settlers in Spain’s colonies in the Americas

• **mestizo**
  – a person of Native American and European descent in Spain’s colonies in the Americas

• **mulatto**
  – a person of African and European descent in Spain’s colonies in the Americas

• **privateer**
  – a pirate who operated with the approval of European governments