

Ch. 10 -Human Geography of Latin America

A Blending of Cultures



Section 1 – Mexico



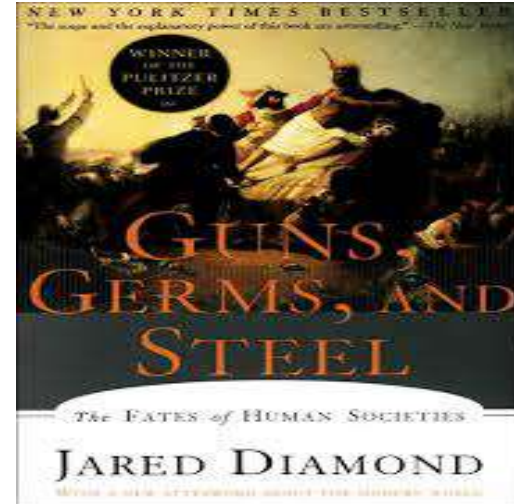
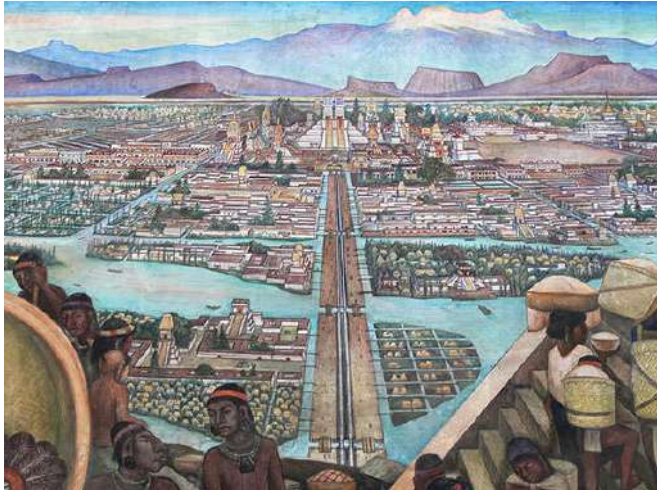
- **Objectives:**

- Describe how Native and Spanish influences have shaped modern-day Mexico.

- Explain how democratic reforms and improved trade agreements could potentially contribute to a stronger economy in Mexico.

Colonialism and Independence

Native Americans and the Spanish Conquest



- Territory of present-day Mexico was originally occupied by many different native peoples including the Toltecs, Aztecs and other smaller groups or tribes.
- The spread of disease, advanced fire power and weaponry along with horses all helped Hernando Cortes and the Spanish conquer the Aztec empire. (1519-1521)



- Mexico was a part of the Spanish empire for three hundred years, providing Spain with gold and silver.
- Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821 under Augustin de Iturbide.

Benito Juarez and Land Reform



- Mid 19th century, Juarez led a reform movement and became president of Mexico.
- Focused on separation of church and state, better education, and more even distribution of land.
- New constitution was adopted in 1917 and redistributed nearly half of Mexico's land to peasants.

One-Party Rule

- 1929, a new political party took power in Mexico called the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

Pros

- helped introduce democracy
- maintain political stability for much of the 20th century.
- continued policy of land redistribution

Cons

- did not tolerate opposition which led to fraud and corruption.

A Meeting of Cultures

The Aztecs and the Spanish



- Aztec empire arose in the Valley of Mexico, a mountain basin about 7,500 feet above sea level.
- Capital of Tenochtitlan – around 1200 C.E.
- Spanish brought disease, their language and Catholicism.

Economics: Cities and Factories

- Main economic challenges:
 1. Closing the long-standing gap between rich and poor people.
 2. Developing a modern industrial economy.



Population, cities and the economy

- Trend of urbanization has increased due to economic opportunities in the city.
- Mexico's economy includes a large industry based on its oil reserves in and along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico .

