

APUSH

Period One- 1491-1607

Lesson: Explain the impact of the European exploration and conquest of the North American continent on the development of the Columbian Exchange.

How did the Spanish expeditions who ventured into the present-day United States, led by Cabeza de Vaca, Hernando de Soto and Francisco Vasquez de Coronado view the land and the people that they encountered according to the documents?

Document One– Cabeza de Vaca

At sunrise the next day, the time the Indians appointed, they came according to their promise, and brought us a large quantity of fish with certain roots, some a little larger than walnuts, other a trifle smaller, the got from under the water and much labor. In the evening they returned and brought us more fish and roots. They sent their women and children to look at us, who went back rich with the hawk-bells and beads given them, and they came afterwards on other days, returning as before. Finding that we had provision, fish, roots, water and other things we asked for, we decided to embark again and pursue our course.... Because of the extreme coldness of the weather, lest anyone should die or fall by the way, they caused four or five large very large fires to be placed at intervals, and at each they warmed us; and when they saw that we had regained some habitation and some strength, they took us to their habitations, where we found that they had made a house with many fires in it.... The four Christians being gone, after a few days such cold tempestuous weather succeeded that the Indians could not pull up roots, the cane wears in which they took up fish no longer yielded any thing, and the houses being open, our people began to die. Five Christians, of a mess on the coast, came to such an extreme that they ate their dead; the body of the last one only was found unconsumed.... This produced a great commotion among the Indians, giving rise to so much censure that had they known it in season to have done so, doubtless they would have destroyed any survivor, and we should have found ourselves in the utmost perplexity. Finally, of eighty men who arrived in the two instances, fifteen only, remained alive. —*From the Narrative of the Journey of Cabeza de Vaca, 1528-1536.*

Document Two– Francisco Vasquez de Coronado

It was the Lord's pleasure that, after having journeyed across these deserts seventy-seven days, I arrived at the province they call Quivira, to which the guides were conducting me, and where they had described to me houses of stone, with many stories; and not only are they not of stone, but of straw, but the people in them are as barbarous as all those whom I have seen and passed before this; they do not have cloaks, nor cotton of which to make these, but use the skins of the cattle (buffaloes) they kill, which they tan, because they are settled among these on a very large river. They eat raw flesh like the Querechos and the Teyas; they are enemies of one another, but are all of the same sort of people, and these at Quivira have the advantage in the houses they build and in planting corn.... The province of Quivira is 950 leagues from Mexico. Where I reached it, it was in the fortieth degree. The country itself is the best I have ever seen for producing all of the products of Spain, for besides the land itself being very fat and black and being well watered with rivulets and springs and rivers, I found prunes like those in Spain (or, I found everything we have in Spain) and nuts and very good sweet grapes and mulberries. I have treated the natives of this province, and all the others whom I found wherever I went, as well as possible, agreeably to what Your Majesty had commanded, and they have received no harm in any way from me or those who went in my company. I remained twenty-five days in this province of Quivira, so as to see and explore the country and also to find out whether there was anything beyond which could be of service to Your

Majesty, because the guides who had brought me had given me an account of other provinces beyond this. And what I am sure of is that there is not any gold nor any other metal in all that country, and the other things of which they had told me are nothing but little villages, and in many of these they do not plant anything and do not have any houses except of skins and sticks, and they wander around with the cows (buffalo); so the account that they gave me was false, because they wanted to persuade me to go there with my whole force, believing that as they way was through such uninhabited deserts, and from the lack of water, they would get us where we and our horses would die of hunger.... I have done all that I possibly could to serve Your Majesty and to discover a country where God Our Lord might be served and the royal patrimony of Your Majesty increased, as your loyal servant and vassal.—*Francisco Vasquez de Coronado- Report to the King of Spain, 1542.*

Document Three– An Eyewitness to the Desoto Expedition

The Governor (Luis de Moscoso), having been led for two days out of the way, ordered the Indian guide to be put to the torture, when he confessed that his master the Cacique of Mondaco, had ordered him to take them in that manner, we being his enemies, and he, as his vassal, was bound to obey him. He was commanded to be cast to the dogs, and another Indian guided us to Soacatino (possibly the Upper Cross Timbers of Texas), where we came the following day.... The country was very poor, and the want of maize was greatly felt. The natives, being asked if they had any knowledge of any Christians, said they heard that near there, towards the south, such men were moving about. For twenty days the march was through a thinly populated country, where great privation and toil were endured; the little maize there was, the Indians having buried in the scrub, where the Christians, at the close of the day's march, when they were all well weary, went trailing, to seek for what they had need of to eat. — *The Desoto Chronicles- From a Knight of Elvas, 1549.*

Thought Question:

(For this question, you may reference the map in your textbook, *The American Pageant*, which showcases the routes taken by each of the expeditions.)

How will the Spanish regard North America and the Native Americans living on the continent after the expeditions of Hernando de Soto and Francisco Vasquez de Coronado?