

2.4 The Spanish in South America

TECHTREK
 myNGconnect.com For an online map of Spanish settlement and photos of artifacts
 Maps and Graphs Digital Library

Main Idea The arrival of the Spanish in the 1500s shaped the history and culture of the South American continent.

In 1494, in order to avoid conflicts over exploration and settlement, Spain and Portugal signed a **treaty**, or an agreement between two or more countries. The **Treaty of Tordesillas** (tor duh SEE uhs) drew a line on a map that divided the newly discovered lands between the two countries. The treaty divided South America into two parts. The Spanish claimed lands west of the line, and Portugal claimed lands east of the line.

The Treaty of Tordesillas set the stage for the Spanish conquest of most of South America. Four years later, Christopher Columbus, sailing on behalf of Spain, landed on South America's northern coast.

The Spanish Conquest

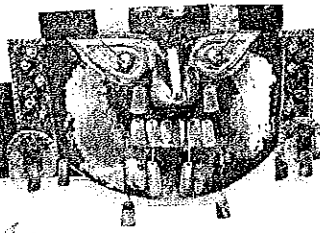
As they had in Mexico, Spanish conquistadors arrived in South America determined to expand Spain's empire and search for resources such as gold and silver. In 1533, **Francisco Pizarro**, with a small army of men, overthrew the Inca emperor, **Atahualpa** (AH tah WAHL pah). Pizarro founded the city of Lima, Peru, which became the center



Critical Viewing *The Spaniard and the Inca Chief* by James McConnell. What stories does this painting tell about the Spanish and the Inca?

of the Spanish government and empire in South America. Other conquistadors explored and conquered Colombia, on the northern coast, and most of Chile, on the western coast. (See the map opposite.) The Spanish conquest of South America permanently **transformed**, or changed, much of the continent and its people.

This gold mask is one example of the wealth the Spanish sought in South America.



1400

Gold statues discovered in the mountains of Argentina illustrate the extent of the Inca Empire.



1438-1533
 Inca Empire rules vast area of South America.

1498-1500
 Columbus's third voyage reaches northern coast of South America

1494

Spain and Portugal sign the Treaty of Tordesillas

Impact on Native Populations

Deadly diseases that traveled with the Spanish to South America wiped out entire villages and native populations. Because these groups had no resistance to diseases such as smallpox, measles, and influenza, many died quickly.

The Spanish enslaved natives and forced them to work on plantations and ranches and in mines. Large numbers of enslaved native people died from the effects of harsh labor conditions.

Missionaries who arrived after the 1550s viewed South America as an opportunity to spread Christianity. The goal was to **convert**, or persuade native populations to change their religious beliefs. Some conversions were forced. Many native people began to practice the Catholic faith, and some blended aspects of Christianity with their own religious practices.

Before You Move On

Summarize What impact did the Spanish have on the history and culture of South America?

Pedro Álvares Cabral
Portuguese navigator
lands on eastern coast of
South America in 1500

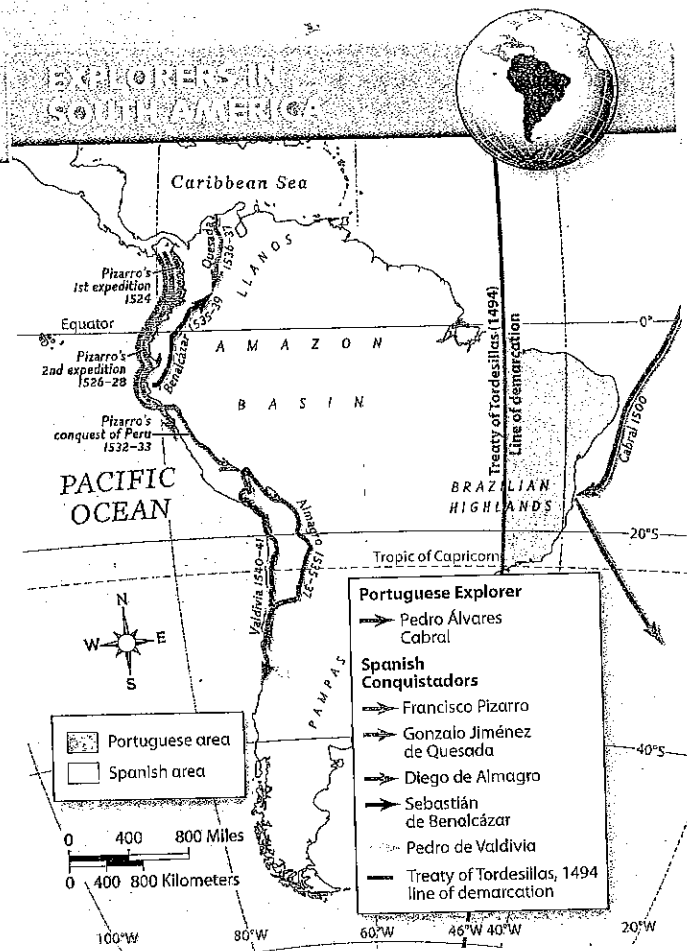
1500



1524
Pizarro reaches
northwestern coast
of South America.

1541
Spanish establish
Santiago, Chile.

1535
Spanish establish Lima,
Peru, as center of empire
in South America.



ONGOING ASSESSMENT

MAP LAB

- Movement** According to the map, where were Spanish conquistadors most active in the 1520s and 1530s? Who made multiple expeditions?
- Evaluate** Locate the line of demarcation on the map. How would you describe the impact of that line on South America?
- Interpret Time Lines** About how many years passed between the signing of the Treaty of Tordesillas and the overthrow of the Inca?