



AP United States History 2000 Student Samples

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The native Americans who inhabited the North American Continent were treated in various ways by the nation that met them, the Spanish decimated Indian populations stealing their gold and using them as slaves, whereas the French attempted to establish a fair trade with the Indians and did not attempt an outright conquest.

The ~~Indians~~ Native Americans were described first to the Spanish court by Columbus as a docile and easily subjugated race, and thus the Spanish attempted to subdue all the Indian cultures they contacted.

Hernando Cortez, a Spanish conquistador, provides an example of Spanish policy toward Indians. Cortez landed on what is now Mexico and was believed to be a God. Cortez instead of establishing peaceful negotiations with the Great Aztec Empire attempted to capture its great wealth. Cortez encouraged the conquered tribes to rise up against the Aztecs and the Spanish marched towards Teotihuacan. They were allowed to enter the city, Cortez placed Montezuma under house arrest and then ransacked the city. The gold was shipped back to Spain encouraging other Spaniards to do the same. The Spanish on the Caribbean Islands attempted to use Indians as slaves until the Indians succumbed to European diseases and their populations were decimated. Africans were then brought to work as slaves.

The Spanish did not only wish to rob the Americas of all its economic worth but also attempted to

Catholize the heathen masses. The Spanish cared little for Indian culture and attempted to transfer their ancient religion to Christianity. They built cathedrals over sacred places and established missions to train Indians. Although this succeeded to a large degree it bred resentment in the Indian populations, who as Spain declined joined the mestizos in overthrowing Spanish rule in the colonies.

The French on the other hand did not attempt to steal the wealth of the Indians militarily because no great empire existed that far north. Instead the French established a series of trading posts in the interior of North America in order to allow for a profitable fur trade with the Indians. The French founded few major cities (Quebec, Montreal, Louisburg) and did little to encroach upon Indian lands. However this did not mean that they were free from conflict with the Indians. The nation of Iroquois attempted to push them out, and the French and their Indian allies fought the British in the French and Indian wars. The French because of their economic arrangement with the Indians did not fight major wars against them, decimate their populations, nor destroy their culture as the Spanish did south of the Rio Grande. The French sent a few missionaries who met little success and were turned back. The French presence was only lightly limited and was unobtrusive that allowed for the mutual benefit of all parties.

The French and the Spanish both encountered Indians

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in their colonies in the New world, but the French impact on Indian culture was significantly less than the detrimental effects of the Spanish. The greatest contribution of the Spanish was the horse, however all other Spanish presence wrought destruction on the Indians. The French influence was rather benign as trade continued and only caused a sharp decrease in Beaver populations and some minor migration after its valuable beaver parts.

The arrival of settlers to the New World in the 16th and 17th century disrupted a society that had existed there for ^{centuries} ~~years~~. The Native Americans. Although most European settlers took advantage of the ~~the~~ Native Americans' land and resources, there were ^{many} differences between the extent to which some European nations responded to the Indians ~~the~~ provided before 1750. Great Britain and France ~~responded~~ were two countries that opposed in their response to the American Indians. ~~as~~ culturally and economically ^{where} as Britain ~~held~~ ~~little~~ ~~respect~~ held little respect cultural and economic respect for Native Americans while the French both respected ^{culture of} the Native Americans and looked to them for economic ~~economic~~ assistance.

The founding of Jamestown in 1607 was the start of a large colonization of North America by the British, ~~the~~ ~~colonization~~ a ~~colonization~~ colonization which ~~was~~ continuously pushed the Indians further and further west. Many of the earlier colonies showed no appreciation of the Indians either culturally or for economic value. Even the Puritans who came to seek religious freedom ~~had~~ established ~~was~~ freedom with the removal and ~~de~~ destruction of Indians. Possibly the only attempt of British colonies to integrate the culture and economy of Native Americans with their own was made by William Penn, the proprietor of Pennsylvania, and founder of Philadelphia. The ~~colonization~~ mistreatment by the British was seen in the Indian rebellions which occurred during the 17th and 18th century. Fighting such as seen

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in King Phillip's War or in Pontiac's Rebellion caused ~~the~~ even more separation between the British and Native Americans

The French, on the other hand, had a more amiable relation ~~with~~ with North American Indians. The French, whose economic foundation in the New World was the fur trade, looked to the Indians ~~as~~ for economic benefit. Unlike the British who took advantage of the ~~the~~ Indians when acquiring land, the French respected the Indians and paid for the land they acquired. ~~the~~ The French also made an effort to integrate the Indians into their society by establishing Indian colonies and combining the cultures of the French and Indians.

~~the~~ The differences between the relations of the British and French with the Native Americans are clear. ~~the~~ ^{most} British colonies found no need for Indian relations, a ~~the~~ philosophy later reflected by Andrew Jackson who said "the best Indian is the one out of our eyes and out of sight." The French on the other hand were able to create good relations with the Indians. This relationship is most clearly seen in the French and Indian War, ^{in the 1760's} where most Indians allied with the French in ~~all~~ fighting the British.

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As Europeans came to North America, their encounters with the natives were varied. As both French and Spanish settlers arrived, their treatment toward the Indians was ~~totally~~^{extremely} different.

Spanish explorers were in North America to gain riches and land. The Spanish desired gold and spices to take back to their mother country. ~~in exchange for fortunes~~ They held no regard for the established civilizations of the Indians, especially in Mexico and South America. While explorers such as de Soto and Magellan ~~found~~ discovered important landmarks, they disregarded the inhabitants of the land as they traveled. ~~The most well-known Spanish conqueror~~ The Spanish explorer Pizarro conquered the entire nation of the Inca Indians through deceit and trickery. Another explorer, Cortez, conquered the Aztec Indians of Mexico while acting like a god to them. The Spanish used brutal force and violence toward the Indians ~~simply because~~ to satisfy their hunger for ^{the} riches of the Indians and ~~to take over their land.~~ ^{the surrounding land.} The Spanish were very hostile toward Indians and conquered their ~~do~~ previously long-lasting civilizations. The French had a different approach however. French explorers were in North America for fur trading alone. They befriended

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the Indians because they relied on them to trap the fur. ~~But~~ The French ~~know that~~ they had no intention of ~~settle~~ settling in North America, so they did not seek to conquer their fur-trading friends. The French helped the Indians economically because they provided a good industry of trading with them. The French were less hostile and even friendly toward their Indian business partners. Both European countries did cause severe damage to the Indian population though, with the ~~introd~~ introduction of smallpox to the previously isolated Indians. This disease, introduced by the Europeans, killed 90% of the Indian population of North America. Disease was not the only thing they brought to the Indians though. Europeans introduced horses, guns, certain crops, and a written language to Indians as well. While both European countries approached Indians in North America differently, they both had a long-lasting impression on native American life.