

LAST100: Introduction to Latin American Studies

Midterm Examination, October 9, 2014

Select *five* of the following seven passages. In each case, identify the title, the author(s) (if the text has one), and the approximate date of writing and/or publication (within ten years). Comment briefly on how this passage relates to the text from which it is taken, examining the thematic significance of the passage for the text as a whole and, where it may be useful, noting issues of form or style. Discuss also the broader historical context and what the passage has to say about some of the themes we have been discussing in the course.

- 1) In the year 1514, the seventh year of the pontificate of Pope Julius II, the seventeenth year of Emperor Maximilian II in his empire, the fifth year of the Queen of Spain Doña Juana in her kingdom, Don Francisco Pizarro, Don Diego de Almagro, Fray Vicente of the Order of St. Francis, and the Indian interpreter Felipe Guanca Bilca, joined together with Martin Fernandes Inseso and 350 soldiers and embarked for the kingdom of the Indies of Peru. And they did not wish to rest a single day in any port. Each day they did nothing but think of the gold and silver and riches of the Indies of Peru. They were like a desperate man, foolish, crazy, out of their minds with their greed for gold and silver. At times they could not eat for thinking about gold and silver. At times they had great feasts, as it seemed they had all the gold and silver within their grasp. It was like a house cat when he has the mouse in his claws, then he rejoices. And if not, he always sets up ambushes and works and all his care and thought is set on that, till he catches it; he does not stop, and always returns to that.
- 2) We have been harassed by a conduct which has not only deprived us of our rights but has kept us in a sort of permanent infancy with regard to public affairs. If we could at least have managed our domestic affairs and our internal administration, we could have acquainted ourselves with the processes and mechanics of public affairs.
- 3) In another part of the yard, two African women half-carried, half-dragged an animal's entrails. Over in another area, a mulatto woman was walking off with a ball of viscera when she suddenly slipped in a puddle of blood and fell flat on her backside, shielding her precious booty with her body. Farther away, huddled together in rows, four hundred black women unwound a tangle of intestines in their laps. One by one, they picked off the last bits of fat that the butcher's miserly knife had left on the entrails.

Turn over the page...

- 4) The loveliness of this country, Your Majesties, is so marvelous; it surpasses all others in amenity and beauty as daylight exceeds night. I have said repeatedly to my men that, whatever efforts I make to tell Your Majesties about it, my tongue could not tell the whole truth, or my hand set it down. Truly, I was dumbfounded by the sight of so much beauty, and find myself unable to describe it adequately.
- 5) I was there at the battle of Puren where my captain fell, leaving me in command of the company for some six months, and during that time I had a number of encounters with the enemy and took a few arrows. In one battle, I came up against one of the Indian captains, Francisco Quispiguaucha, a newly made Christian and a rich one too, whose devilish raids gave us plenty of trouble. I met him on the field, threw him from his horse, and he surrendered to me. I immediately strung him up from the nearest tree, and this made the governor furious, for as it turned out he had wanted the man taken alive, and they say it was for this reason he didn't give me the company, but gave it to Captain Casadevante instead, and put me on half-pay with some promising noises about next time.
- 6) Our motto is an egalitarian, sovereign, and independent republic, without racial divisions or social antagonisms. All Cubans who are worthy should be able to be named to the diplomatic corps, and, as a matter of important and urgent necessity, citizens of the race of color should be named, so that the republic can be represented in all its hues.
- 7) The history of our countries tells us that without doubt, passivity and grieving are useless. Instead, the only conduct that will enable the South to raise itself from its miserable role as backwards, exploited, and humiliated is concerted and firm action.

Thanks to the heroic struggle against colonialism, the developing countries destroyed an economic and social order that condemned them to the status of exploited colonies. Colonialism was not defeated by the accumulation of tears of sorrow, or by the repentance of colonialists, but by centuries of heroic battles for independence and sovereignty in which the resistance, tenacity and sacrifices of our peoples worked wonders.

Good luck!