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# Contact and Conflict in the Americas, 16<sup>th</sup> Century



## Mexica Expansion, 1427-1520

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## 1524 Nuremburg map of Tenochtitlan, based on letters of Cortes



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The Capture of Tenochtitlan, anonymous, second half of seventeenth century

#### Figure 4. The Columbian Exchange.

AMERICAS TO EURASIA AND AFRICA		EURASIA AND AFRICA TO AMERICAS	
AND AFRICA Animals Dog (a breed of) Turkey, goose Guinea pig, nutria Llama Diseases Syphilis	Food Crops Apple, plum, citrus fruits, fig, peach Asian rice Banana, plantain Barley Coffee Lettuce Mango Melon, watermelon Millet Oats Okra Olive Onion, leek Pea, lentil, fava bean, chickpea Root vegetables (carrot, beet, radish, turnip, etc.)	AMERICAS Animals Cat Cattle, oxen Chicken Dog Donkey, horse Goat, sheep Honeybee Pig Diseases Bubonic plague Chicken pox, smallpox Cholera Diphtheria Gonorrhea Influenza	
	radish, turnip, etc.) Rye Sorghum Sugarcane	Influenza Malaria Measles Mumps	
Wheat Pleurisy Wine grape Scarlet fever	Pleurisy Scarlet fever Whooping cough		
	Animals Dog (a breed of) Turkey, goose Guinea pig, nutria Llama Diseases	AnimalsFood CropsDog (a breed of)Apple, plum, citrus fruits, fig, peachTurkey, gooseAsian riceGuinea pig, nutriaBanana, plantainLlamaBarleyDiseasesLettuceSyphilisMangoMelon, watermelonMilletOatsOkraOliveOnion, leekPea, lentil, fava bean, chickpeaRoot vegetables (carrot, beet, radish, turnip, etc.)RyeSorghumSugarcaneWheatWine grapeYam	

## From Symcox and Blair, eds., Christopher Columbus and the Enterprise of the Andes

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## INDIAN POPULATION OF CENTRAL MEXICO: CONTACT TO MID-SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Year	Indians	Plague Years	Comments
1519	25,200,000		
		1520	smallpox
		1529	measles
1532	16,800,000		
		1545	matlazáhuatl (typhus?); Indian deaths est. 800,000
1548	6,300,000		
1568	2,650,000		
		1576	matlazáhuatl; Indian deaths est. 2,000,000
1580	1,900,000		
1595	1,375,000		
1605	1,075,000		
1625-50	1,000,000 (or less?)		lowest point of Indian population

Sources: Figures to the year 1605 are based on the researches of Sherburne F. Cook and Woodrow Borah: The Indian Population of Central Mexico, 1531–1610 (Berkeley, 1960), and The Aboriginal Population of Central Mexico on the Eve of the Spanish Conquest (Berkeley, 1963). Their counts, especially those prior to 1568, are considered much too high by some scholars.

### From M. C. Meyer, et al., *The Course of Mexican History*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

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#### Engagement

#### Table 6.2. Native American populations, 1492-1996

1492	53,904,000
1570	13,507,000
1650-1700	9,359,000
1820	8,470,000
1996	40,000,000
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Sources: The population estimate for 1492 is from Chart I:1, Chapter 1, of this book. The estimates for 1570 and 1650-1700 are from Angel Rosenblat, La población indígena y el mestizaje en América, 1492-1950, 2 tomos (1954), Vol. I, p. 59, and Peter C. Mancall, "Native Americans and Europeans in English America, 1500-1700," Table 15.1, "Indian and colonist demography, 1500-1700," in Nicolas Canney (ed.), The Oxford History of the British Empire. Volume I: The Origins of Empire: British Overseas Enterprise to the Close of the Seventeenth Century (1998), p. 331. The estimate for 1820 is from Angus Maddison, The World Economy: Historical Statistics (2003), Table 4.2, "Ethnic Composition of the Americas in 1820," p. 115. The estimate for 1996 is Emma Pearce, "Appendix 1: Indigenous Population Figures," in Phillip Wearne, Return of the Indian: Conquest and Revival in the Americas (1996), pp. 204-15.

### Table 7.1. The Atlantic slave trade: Arrivals in America, 1510–1870

Years	Slaves
1510-1600	274,900
1601-1700	1,341,100
1701-1800	5,729,100
1801-1870	2,902,400
Total	10,247,500

Note: It is a generally held that the first direct shipment of enslaved Africans to the Americas took place in 1510. There some evidence that such shipments occurred earlier. Prior to 1510, or whenever the first direct shipment from Africa began, the Spanish (primarily) brought Africans, slaves and freedmen, from Europe to Hispaniola, Cuba and the Spanish Caribbean in general.

Sources: For the period 1451 to 1700, Philip D. Curtin, The Atlantic Slave Trade: A Census (1969), p. 268; for the period 1701 to 1870, David Eltis; revision of Curtin's figures in Eltis, Economic Growth and the Ending of the Transatlantic Slave Trade (1987). Also see Herbert S. Klein, The Atlantic Slave Trade (1999), Table A-2, pp. 210–11; and David Eltis, Stephen D. Behrendt, David Richardson and Herbert S. Klein (eds.), The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: A Database on CD-Rom (1999).

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Tables from Thomas Benjamin, The Atlantic World: Europeans, Africans, Indians and their Shared History, 1400-1900 (Cambridge UP, 2009)

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