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Spanish 309 Midterm

1.)The U.S. has often contributed to inequality in Latin America through U.S. interventionism. The U.S. has helped to overthrow the governments that were elected in Latin America that were more liberal than the U.S. necessarily wanted. When the U.S. has done this, they often put in governments that instead focus less on what the country may need in terms of social services programs and focuses more on free trade and deregulation. The governments the U.S. tries to prevent from taking power may not have necessarily fixed all of the inequality in Latin America, but they may have been able to change it some by implementing social programs that would help the poorer Latin Americans get back on their feet. This is especially true in countries where the goal was to start bridging economic inequalities.

Similarly, when the U.S. has acted in a way that might be seen as helpful, it often came with strings attached that were not helpful at all. The U.S. could give aid to the Latin American countries that were in extreme debt or where going through a crisis, but that also meant that once the country took the money they had to change how their country worked to mirror the U.S. The U.S. would have these countries cut back their social security programs and try to privatize everything when that only furthers the gap between the rich and the poor. I do not believe for this reason that the U.S. has contributed to reducing inequality in Latin America even if it seems like they have tried.

3.)Manuela Saenz was the most influential women in Latin American history because of her active participation in revolutions and her early fight for women's rights. She worked with Simon Bolivar to ensure the freedom of New Granada and her role as an aid to him is one that helped ensure the revolutions' success. She was able to stop an attempt on his life, as well, and remove him from a dangerous situation that allowed him to continue to foster revolutionary ideas. She worked as a translator for the revolution and was also good at collecting information about issues that would have prevented the revolutions' success. Manuela Saenz is the reason that the revolution was successful and without her there would not be the same legacy for Latin American revolutions.

Manuela Saenz's early campaigning for women's rights is also essential. Her arguing for equality for women when she did was revolutionary on its own and spoke to her social consciousness. Though Latin America is still a patriarchal society, she was able to start opening people's eyes to the inequalities women faced and her involvement with the other revolutions allowed her to spread this fight to people who may not have been concerned with it previously. She used her position in these revolutions to also work towards equality for women and that was beyond her time and essential to the women's rights movements in Latin America today.

4.)The difference between a political revolution and a social revolution is what is changed the most in a society. In a political revolution, all that is changed is the way the political system works. In political revolution the main goal is to overturn the old way of government and restructure it to work in a completely different way. It can also be when a type of government party that is radically different from the previous government is put into power, like going from a republic to a socialist political party. Brazil would be an example of a political revolution because when they gained their independence nothing

changed except the way the government worked. The peninsulares went from being in control to the criollo being in control, but the societal structure stayed the same. A social revolution is when the society is completely changed. This is often when the class structure of a society is inverted and the people on the bottom of the previous society become the top of the next society. This type of revolution also involves a change in the way property is seen or who owns it. The Haitian revolution was a social revolution because they eliminated slavery and they worked on giving people equal rights and a change to the social structure in the country. These different kinds of revolutions play apart in the different ways that Latin American countries have gained their independence and how they tried to overcome the inequalities that they faced. Many of the initial revolutions for freedom from Spain were political only. The later revolutions trying to deal with inequality were social.

5.) A core country is a country that has control over the global economy and plays a large role economically abroad. They often are producers of products like computers, but not necessarily in the production of the raw materials. A semi periphery country is a country that plays a role in the global economy but is not necessarily a large power. They produce some of their own products but also produce the raw materials. They usually play a role as go between core and periphery countries. A periphery country produces raw materials and does not necessarily play a large role in the global economy. These countries also tend to depend on trade with other countries to acquire products that they cannot produce on their own, especially the products produced by core countries. An example of a core country would be the United States. The United States produces a lot of finished products like laptops, cars, and appliances. The United States also plays a large role in the global economy. A semi-periphery country would be Brazil. Brazil does produce its own laptops and other finished products, but they also grow a lot of raw materials needed for these products and are not as large of a player in the global economy. A country like Bolivia would be an example of a periphery country because they are a mainly agricultural country and have a very limited impact on the global economy. Bolivia also relies on other countries for a lot of the finished products that they cannot produce in their country.

6.) The Latin American casta system is a way to organize people based on their ethnic background. The white people who originally came over from Europe are classified as peninsulares and their descendants that had only European ancestry were considered criollo. These two categories were at the top of the casta structure and held the most exclusive positions in society. The next group were the castizo who were people of primarily European descent with some native ancestry. A mestizo was a person of equal European and native descent. An indio was a person of only native descent. A pardo was a person of European, native, and African descent. A Mulatto was a person of European and African descent. A zambo was a person of native and African descent. At the bottom of this casta system were the negro who were of African, primarily a descendant of slaves. This system was the way that social hierarchies worked in Latin America, but as time progressed and people mixed more and more, these lines became harder and harder to define. It became less about ancestry and more about how white you looked. If you could pass for someone on the tiers above, it would have been impossible to argue that that wasn't the category that you fell under. While this class structure based on ethnicity was shaky as time progressed, the lines it drew remained the social structure for Latin America. People who were under the higher tiers stayed in power and made the laws. People who were born into the lower tiers stayed in poverty and continue to face inequality based on these ethnic standards. The people in the political sphere often try and use their classification as a reason that they should be voted in. Even if it is not as

obvious as in the past, these terms are still used to show status and prestige. The system is still used today to define people despite it being outdated and useless in a world where people are always mixing.

7.) Some of the major factors responsible for poverty in Latin America are the distribution of land that started during the colonial period. The people who came to Latin America during the colonial period took large chunks of land for themselves and forced the native population to work on the land. Many of these people were born and died on the same piece of land. The largest area of poverty in Latin America is these rural areas because the people who live here know how to work the land but cannot own it themselves. They are forced to work for not very much money doing hard labor when the only person to benefit is the land owner. The fact that so much of the land is owned by only one or two people means that these people who work the land are perpetually stuck in poverty. If they had the ability to work the land themselves, but also own sections of it, they would be able to keep the profits that they are working so hard for. They would also be able to provide for their families on this land. However, during the colonial period a lot of the landed estates abused the land that they had, and it is now harder to farm and harder to produce on which also leaves these people in the rural areas unable to make a living off of the land that they know how to work. This forces many of them into the cities. However, because they do not have technical training or skills that would be valued in an urban sphere, they have to work low paying jobs doing hard manual labor in the cities as well. This inability to get ahead in either area keeps them in a cycle of poverty that their children will also repeat. The division of the land during the colonial period and its treatment are some of the reasons for poverty in Latin America.

12.) The 1980's was the "Lost Decade" in Latin America because of the debt and rules imposed on Latin America by the organizations, like the World Bank. The Latin American countries were encouraged in the previous decade to take out large loans to build infrastructure and help their countries industrialize by organizations like the World Bank. The Latin American countries did take out large loans, but in the early 1980's they had to default on the payments and were so much in debt that the organizations stepped in and set rules for the countries to pay them back. The countries would only be given future loans that they still needed if they let the International Monetary Fund into the countries to reorganize the government so that they could make the payments. Many of these rules were around privatizing all of the public services that the countries had. Services like electricity and telephone lines that had previously been run by the government were sold off for much less than their actual value and that money went toward the countries payments. This privatization decreased the effectiveness of many of these services and the poor could no longer afford the services either. This decade saw an increase in unemployment and a large gap that formed between the rich and the poor in these countries. The economy in Latin America plummeted and any growth that had been made prior to the debt was quickly lost. Many people in Latin America saw their quality of life drop along with the economy. This instability increased issues like the drug trade and other crimes as they were some of the only ways to make money. The complete chaos that this decade became known for in Latin America is why it is considered the "Lost Decade".

13.) The triangular trade between the Americas, Europe, and Africa was the exchange of goods and people that happened during the colonial period. One of the largest exports during this period was the slave trade that took place between the Americas and Africa. The colonizers that came to the Americas had already worked much of the Native peoples to death and started looking to Africa for more of a labor force. The colonial powers had people brought from Africa to the Americas to work the large landed estates that they had taken during their initial time in the Americas. These people were often

working on plantations where they harvested tobacco, cotton, and sugar that was sent to Europe to be sold. The slaves were also in charge of keeping the homes of the colonizers cleaned and later began to be in charge of taking care of the children being born in the Americas. This triangular trade created an exchange back to the Americas from Europe as well. Europe was manufacturing most of the textiles and growing products that could not be gotten in the Americas. The plantations in the Americas were sending raw materials to Europe and Europe was sending back products and often times materials from Europe that the colonizers in the Americas were used to having. This trade is a large part of the change in traditional cuisines in Europe as new foods were being grown in the Americas that they had not previously had in Europe.