

Chapter 1: A New World

Potential Essay Questions

1. Explain as thoroughly as you can how the slave trade affected African society.
2. One Spanish official remarked that “the maxim of the conqueror must be to settle.” Explain what you think he meant by this statement. Illustrate the various ways conquerors settled the New World, commenting on what worked, what did not work, and the consequences of those methods.
3. Explain the chapter’s title: “A New World.” What was new? Is it an appropriate term? Does perspective play a role in calling the Americas new? Be sure to comment on whether freedom was new in this New World.
4. Compare Indian society with that of the Europeans. What differences were there? Similarities? Be sure to include in your analysis ideas about religion, land, and gender roles, as well as notions about freedom.
5. The Dutch prided themselves on their devotion to liberty. Explain what kinds of liberties and freedoms the Dutch recognized that other nations, such as Spain, did not. How did these notions of freedom affect the development of their North American empire? Be sure to include the Indians and slaves in your discussion.
6. The sophistication and diversity of the ancient peoples in the Americas is remarkable. Explore that diversity in an essay that discusses their culture, architecture, religion, gender relations, economy, and views of freedom.
7. The Spanish had a long history of conquering in the name of the Lord. From the *reconquista* to the conquistadores to the settlement of the New World, Spain justified its conquests as its mission to save the souls of heathens, while putting them to work in subhuman conditions. Explore this paradox of conquering and killing in the name of saving. Remember to think about what else is going on in the world in regard to the Protestant Reformation and the Inquisition.