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**Crash Course #25: Spanish Empire, Silver and Runaway Inflation**

**Key Concept 4.1 Globalizing Networks of Communication & Exchange**

1. Global networks developed, but pre-existing regional trade networks also intensified, which brought increased prosperity & economic disruption to those pre-existing networks
2. Global circulation of goods, regional markets continue to flourish
3. Europeans in Asia mostly transported goods within Asia/Indian Ocean
4. Silver from Americas affected commercialization/global economy
5. Europeans used joint stock companies (mercantilism)
6. Atlantic systems: goods, wealth, free & unfree laborers
7. Merchants’ profits led to more taxes, which led to funding for the arts
8. Artistic innovations all over the world

**Key Concept 4.2 New Forms of Social Organization & Modes of Production**

1. Traditional peasant agriculture & plantations expanded, demand for labor increased=both fed & responded to growing global demand for raw materials & finished products
2. Peasant labor intensified *(Russian Siberia, Indian cotton, Chinese silk)* Slavery in Africa—slaves into household continued, export of slaves to Mediterranean & Indian Ocean
3. Growth of plantation economy increased demand for slaves in Americas
4. Colonial economies in Americas depended on range of coerced labor *(chattel slavery, indentured servitude, encomienda & hacienda systems, Spanish adaptation of the Inca mit’a)*

Directions:

1. Read the Key Concepts.

2. Preview the video viewing questions.

3. Watch Crash Course #25 “Spanish Empire, Silver and Runaway Inflation” ***once without*** taking notes

4. Watch the video again and answer the video viewing questions.

Questions

1. What empires were the precursors to the Aztecs?
2. Describe the political and social structure of the Aztec empire
3. In what ways did the Aztecs “appease the gods”? Why?
4. What areas did the Aztec influence expand over?
5. What were some of the main accomplishments of the Aztecs?
6. Despite their geographic challenges how were the Incas able to unify their empire?
7. What commonalities existed between the Spanish political systems and the Aztec/Inca systems that made it easier for the Spanish to establish rule?
8. How did the Spanish change the previous “mita” system to their benefit?
9. What are 2 reasons why the Spanish relied on natives as a labor source instead of importing slaves from Africa?
10. Despite the influx of silver making Spain the wealthiest nation in Europe, why did their economy begin to decline?
11. Thought question: What SHOULD the Spanish monarchs have done differently in order to have use the influx of silver to have increased their wealth for a longer period of time?
12. Why did the Chinese have a large demand for silver?
13. What is the connection between the demand for silver and the production of silk?
14. What similarities do the Chinese and Spanish share in regards to the impact of silver on their economy?
15. How could silver be described as the first truly global market?
16. In what ways did the discovery of silver in the Americas have a negative impact on societies?