

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value Season II.

Episode 10.

Central America Hidden Strategy
A Shelter refuge for whom?

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4/4/2025



A portion of the Coat of Arms Philip IV King of Imperial Spain. Philip IV(1605-1665) 8th Grand Master of the Order 1621-1665. <https://europeanheraldry.org/iberian-peninsula/spain/knights-golden-fleece/philip-iv-16051665-6th-grand-master-order-1621-1665/>


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Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season II

From 1516 to 1700: Habsburg Spanish America Bases with a Medieval Allure



 Updated Outline Calendar.

Season II goes from January 24th to May 2nd , 2025.

<p>24-January-25</p> <p>» Episode 1 </p> <p>Ouverture </p>	<p>31-January-25</p> <p>Episode 2 </p> <p>Spanish America with a Medieval allure: Conquest & colonization Part 1 </p>	<p>07-February-25</p> <p>Episode 3 </p> <p>Spanish America with a Medieval allure: Conquest & colonization Part 2 </p>	<p>14-February-25</p> <p>Episode 4 </p> <p>Spanish America with a Medieval allure: Conquest & colonization Part 3 </p>	<p>21-February-25</p> <p>Episode 5 </p> <p>Spanish America with a Medieval allure: Conquest & colonization Part 4 </p>
<p>28-February-25</p> <p>Episode 6 </p> <p>Spanish America with a Medieval allure: Conquest & colonization Part 5 </p>	<p>07-March-25</p> <p>Episode 7 </p> <p>Moved for next week </p>	<p>14-March-25</p> <p>Episode 7 </p> <p>Philip II: Carrying Heritage Duty </p>	<p>21-March-25</p> <p>Episode 8 </p> <p>Philip II: Spanish Golden Age in Warfare . </p>	<p>28-March-25</p> <p>Episode 9 </p> <p>Philip III: The Race for America. Philip IV and Charles II: Brash for the Spanish Succession War Cliff </p>
<p>04-April-25</p> <p>Episode 10 </p> <p>Central America hidden strategy: A shelter refuge for whom? </p>	<p>» 11-April-25</p> <p>» Episode 11</p> <p>Central America hidden strategy: Walloping a secret beyond gold. </p>	<p>Holy week</p> <p>» 25-April-25</p> <p>» Episode 12</p> <p>Central America hidden strategy: A Feudal Society </p>	<p>2-May-25</p> <p>» Episode 13</p> <p>Central America Commodities Fundamentals & School of Salamanca </p>	<p>Next Season III (Spring Summer Saga of 2025) will begin on May 23rd. It will cover the period from 1700 to 2024</p> <p>Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season III: Bourbon Bells without Industrial Development?</p>

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This outline is subject to change if the author considers it appropriate for your learning experience.

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Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season II

From 1516 to 1700: Habsburg Spanish America Bases with a Medieval Allure



Big Picture of our Content.

Season II goes from January 24th to April 25th, 2025.

Season	Start Date	Finish Date	Number of episodes	Historical Timeline to Analyze	Main General themes
One (I) Autumn -Winter 2024	October 4 th , 2024	December 27 th , 2024	13 episodes	1492-1558	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical foundations Castile & Aragon: Discovery of Spanish America, the Holy Roman Empire Charles V-Holy Roman Emperor: his local, personal, regional, religious, and international agenda The Spanish Inquisition
Two (II) Winter-Spring 2025	January 24 th , 2025	April 25 th , 2025	13 episodes	1492-1700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spanish America with a Medieval Allure: Conquest and Colonization Understanding the economics philosophy of the Habsburgs Rulers in Central America: Philip II, Philip III, Philip IV, and Charles II. Commodities: Mining extraction of precious metal reserves
Three (III) Spring-Summer 2025	May 23 rd , 2025	October 10 th , 2025.	20 episodes	1700-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bourbon Era Bells of Independence Mining + Agricultural Commodities Chartered Urban vs Forgotten Rural Derailment of violence and inner conflicts Agricultural Commodities + Products + Services Where is our industrial development? The transformational experience? Agricultural Commodities + Products + Services + The Tech Palatine

Past saga: done

This saga

Next saga

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season II. From 1516 to 1700: Habsburg Spanish America Bases with a Medieval Allure



Main framework of Analysis

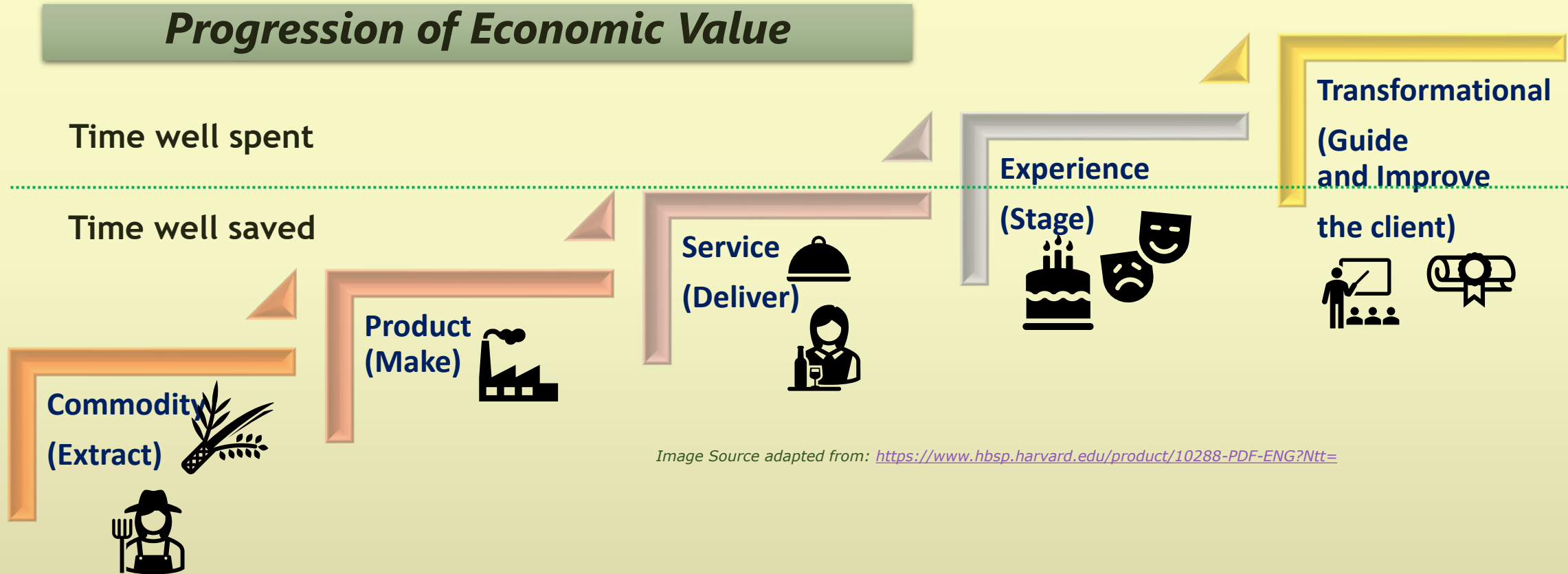


Image Source adapted from: <https://www.hbsp.harvard.edu/product/10288-PDF-ENG?Ntt=>

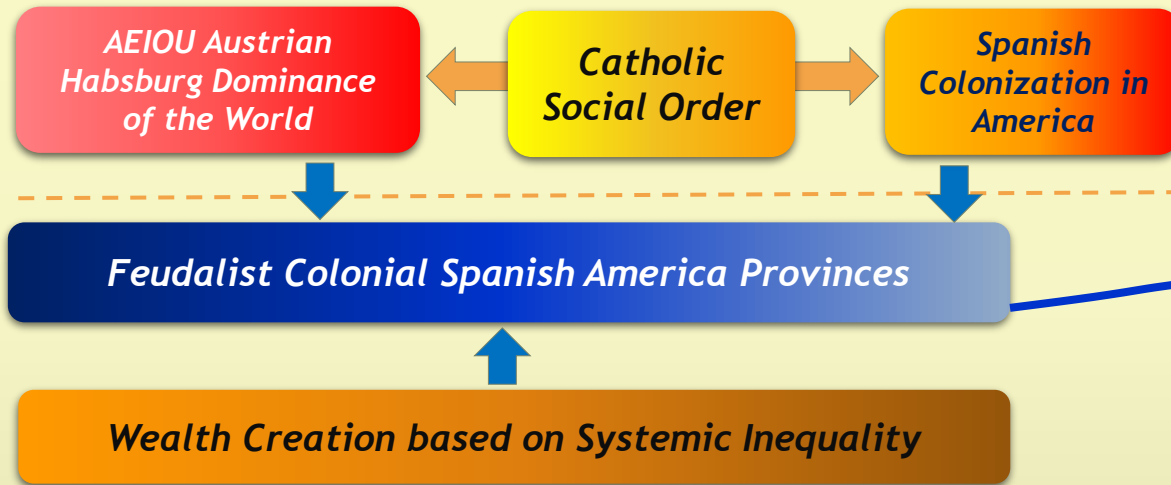
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From 1516 to 1700: Habsburg Spanish America Bases with a Medieval Allure



Spanish America with a Medieval Allure

- Our mode to explain Spanish America Economic Formation and Development



Feudalist Colonial Spanish America Provinces main aspects

Give and Take Strategy

Local Upper-Class Leading Autonomy in Interchange for Subordination and Vassalage to the Royal Crown



Upper-Class is defined as the New Lords of Spanish America Provinces. They were former military knights, Middle class-Serfs fortune hunters, Catholic Priests, conquistadors, and the European blue-blood Princes, Dukes, Marquess, Earls, Counts, Viscounts, and Barons who originally settled in Spanish America provinces.

AEIOU Austrian Habsburg Dominance of the World:



Deep Inequalities measured in racial/ethnic terms, income, male-female roles, education, quality of public services and lack of prosperity opportunities for the indigenous and non-elite populations.

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Central America Hidden Strategy of the Spanish Habsburg (1558-1700)



NOTE: Please remember that the term Corporate Strategy in times of the Conquest and Colonization of America is equivalent to military strategy to gain competitive advantage under the terms of the Early Modern Europe 16th-18th centuries (previous to the first Industrial revolution which started in England and Germany).



*Our agenda for today:
The Kingdom of Guatemala, a shelter or refuge for whom.*

1. The Kingdom of Guatemala... why was so important for the Spanish Habsburg branch?



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Public photos of the marvelous paysages of the Kingdom of Guatemala. Source: Google. Used for illustrative reasons in Education.

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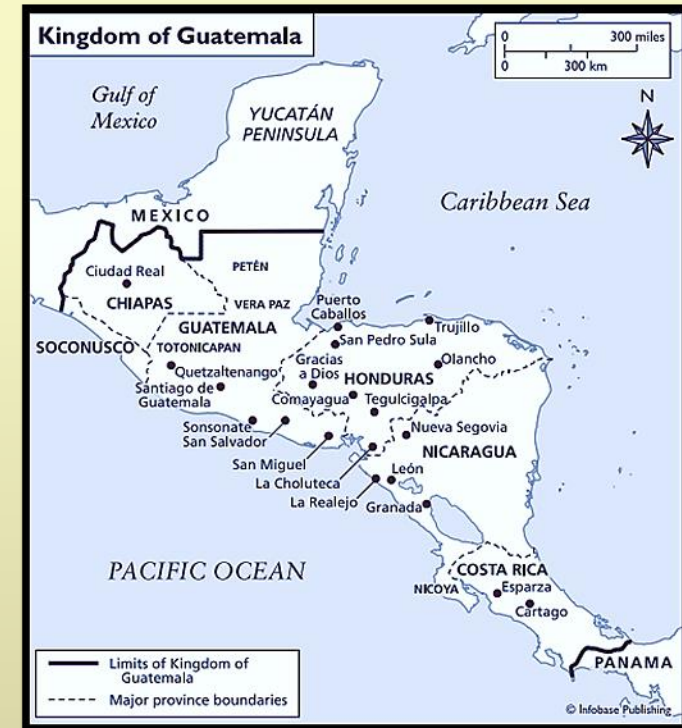
Central America Hidden Strategy

From 1558 to 1700 : The foundations of the Kingdom of Guatemala



Why the Kingdom of Guatemala is so important?

- The formation and colonial establishment of the Kingdom of Guatemala was designed by the catholic friars. The missionaries (indirectly) and inadvertently became the true leaders of ethnography, cartography and the first territorial organization of the Kingdom during the 16th century.
- When the catholic missionaries divided the region in bishoprics, they unconsciously and initially fixed the tone for the further social and provincial divisions of the Crown government.
- During the colonization of Guatemala, between 1558 to 1700 the most crucial concerns pivotal to demographics were:



- The kingdom of Guatemala seems as a third-tier priority for the Spanish Crown, in comparison to México, Perú, Panamá or Granada. Our hypothesis is the opposite.

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Image Source: Foster, Lynn A Brief History of Central America. Chapter 4. Infobase Publishing, 2007

Central America: A Quest for the Progression of Economic Value. Season II. From 1516 to 1700: Habsburg Spanish America Bases with a Medieval Allure



Central America Hidden Strategy

From 1558 to 1700 : The foundations of the Kingdom of Guatemala



Why the Kingdom of Guatemala is so important?

- The Kingdom of Guatemala was so important from the start for Charles V and Philip II (his son). It was exceptionally significant for the Habsburg-Castile Aragon branch. Charles V appointed his two main territorial top safeguards to protect it directly, with express order from the King himself:

1

Knight Order of Santiago

• The first settlement was named Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala.

2

Catholic Priests and Friars

Bartolomé de las Casas

- Bartolomé de las Casas played an essential role in the establishment of the Kingdom of Guatemala.
- Francisco Marroquín was the most powerful first bishop and governor of Guatemala with direct access to the King Charles V Emperor and the Pope.

Francisco Marroquín

Chronology of the origin of Antigua Guatemala

1523	Pedro de Alvarado conquers Iximche. He is identified as God. First Capital named Villa de Santiago de Guatemala.
1527	The Spanish settlement of Alvarado is evacuated to Almolonga Valley. Second capital called Ciudad Vieja
1532	King Charles V appoints Francisco Marroquín as priest of the Parish. Then in 1532. Queen Isabella of Portugal appoints again Francisco Marroquín as a bishop and « protector of the Indians ».
1537	Pope Paul II assigns 200 gold ducats annually to Guatemala Cathedral. Marroquín is finally consecrated as bishop by Zumarraga in México.
1541	Lahar from floods destroys the Ciudad Vieja. Pedro de Alvarado dies, and his wife too. Moving the city to Panchoy Valley, the current location of Antigua Guatemala. Third Capital.
1542	Francisco Marroquín starts his direct communication with Charles V Holy Roman Emperor for the construction of the Cathedral of Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala.

The Catholic military-religious order of the knights of Santiago was founded in Spain in 1171. By 1493, Ferdinand and Isabella succeeded in getting the Pope to grant the King of Spain perpetual mastership of these institutions. In 1523 Pope Adrian VI granted the bull for the Order of Santiago, Calatrava and Alcantara. Montesa was delayed until 1587.

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Central America Hidden Strategy

From 1558 to 1700 : The foundations of the Kingdom of Guatemala

Why the Kingdom of Guatemala is so important?



The Catholic military-religious order of the knights of Santiago was a military order that had links and connections throughout León, Aragón, Castile and Portugal

- We suggest that the Kingdom of Guatemala was so important for Charles V for several reasons.
- First, it was discovered and conquered by the son of a Holy Roman Emperor who was linked to the Valois family of Burgundy, Castile and Aragón Kingdoms.
- From the point of view of the geographical location, the kingdom of Guatemala was organized with a meaningful capital to become a dwelling point of true living for the kings of the Habsburg-Castile Aragón branch.
- The design of Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala (Now, Antigua) was conceived by the friars and protected by the Santiago Knights for Charles V, Isabella Aviz and their descendants. The knights obeyed and settled to shield the King.
- To this day, anyone who visits Antigua still feels the pleasant atmosphere as a place of sanctity and pleasurable harmony, surrounded by volcanos and mountains, a precious dwelling for the Spanish Royal family of the 16th and 17th centuries.
- The Church in the diocese of Guatemala became the most powerful in the whole New Spain. The king and the Pope were foreseeing the colonization of the Kingdom of Guatemala directly.
- According to Lynn Foster, author of the book “A brief history of Central America”, there were 759 churches in the Kingdom of Guatemala, and 60% of them were in the region of what today is Guatemala and El Salvador.
- Only the city of Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala held 24 churches, 8 hermitages, 15 convents and 1 majestic cathedral which was unbelievable superior to the one of México City. Look at your right.



Guatemala Cathedral Construction Ramirez Montufar, Antonio Date: 1678. Ramirez's painting shows the state of the cathedral in 1678 when the work was not finished. There were consecutive damage caused by the strong tremors of 1717, 1751 and, above all, the earthquake of 1773.

<https://polipapers.upv.es/index.php/vitruvio/article/view/8794/9081>

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From 1516 to 1700: Habsburg Spanish America Bases with a Medieval Allure



Central America Hidden Strategy

From 1558 to 1700 : The foundations of the Kingdom of Guatemala



The kingdom of Guatemala (also called later the Captaincy general of Guatemala) covered the area now divided among the Mexican state of Chiapas, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, but not Panama.

Philosophically there is a difference when a king conquers a land to find a new place to live (a home peaceful refuge) in comparison to conquer a place for trading and commerce. Let ´ s see why?



A place to reside

- We suggest that the real Charles V who came to América through Portugal Port, was captivated by the beauty of the region. The freshness of the plateau near living volcanoes. It was chosen because of the climate, and the majestic geographic paysages.
- The dwelling place par excellence was chosen in between many, as Santiago de Guatemala by 1542. It was meant to be a refuge, a hidden land far away from the ports, far from international commerce, without terrestrial communication, a place that could protect the royal family from the wars of Europe, the attacks of the pirates, and far away from the coastal cities.



A place for commerce & trade

- We perceive that México, New Granada, Manila, Perú and the Caribbean were considered as places for trading or logistics, given its silver mining operations and geographical setup.
- Places for trade and commerce were designed and built with better transportation routes and interconnectivity infrastructure from the mines to the ports. Also they were guarded with forts.
- Trading cities were located next to the coast, attracting merchants driven by profits, not by religious catholic values.

Why the Kingdom of Guatemala is so important?



Central America was chosen as the place to live for the Branch of Charles V descendants. It was chosen as his family dwelling place to live, not as a place to do commerce neither as a place to create an urban hub of mercantilism for trading. It was chosen as a future family household.

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Central America Hidden Strategy

From 1558 to 1700 : The foundations of the Kingdom of Guatemala



The Greek Philosopher Plato was ingrained in the Habsburg king's education: Plato describes an ideal colony... "as self-sufficient as possible, that is, geographically isolated and far from the coast, because the proximity of the sea is salty and dissolves the neighborhood, by infecting the colony with the fever of commerce and retail trade, infiltrating its souls with priceless and dishonest customs; sweeping away mutual trust and friendship among the city dwellers, both those of the city itself and those of the people among themselves."

Central America or the Kingdom of Guatemala was chosen as the new household for the Royal Habsburg-Castile-Aragon. We suggest that this family was escaping, migrating from the warfare and eternal conflicts in Europe.

Why the Kingdom of Guatemala is so important?

The Habsburg/Aviz-Castile/Aragón families decided to make Santiago de los Caballeros de Guatemala their new home in the 16th century.



- The military order of Santiago in conjunction to the missionary friars were appointed to safeguard the place. The main responsibility of the knights was to protect and obey the king and his family members.
- The Catholic friars in the Kingdom of Guatemala were completely different than those appointed for México and Perú. They were the colonization arm of the Spanish crown to pacify and harmonize with the native Indians. Their major strategy was to evangelize them and protect them as much as they could (it was a direct mandate of the Spanish Crown from Charles V and Isabella Aviz) instead of applying inquisitorial slaughtering.
- The Spanish Royal Family education with the Greek philosophical framework influenced the King to choose Santiago de Guatemala as their residence. This kept the whole kingdom as a special region for belonging and residing, not a region for trading.
- Despite the 17h century economic depression in Peninsular Spain, the quality of the missionaries coming to the kingdom of Guatemala was superior in comparison to the rest of the Empire.
- Guatemala received most of its missionaries during the period of Philip II. It coincides with the planning and building of the monastery palace of San Lorenzo of El Escorial, given to the Hieronymites of Yuste.

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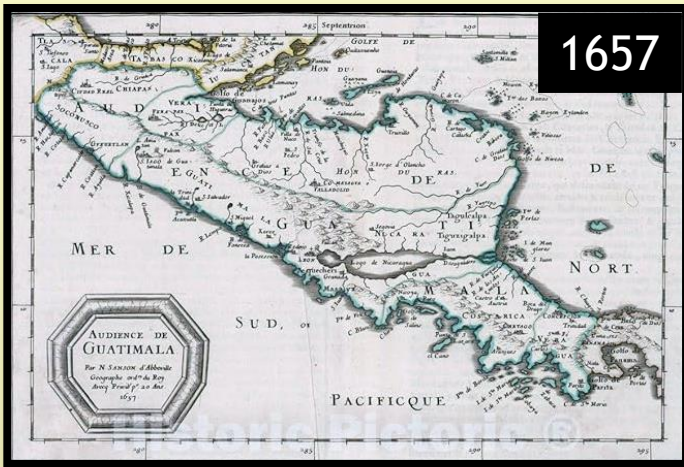


Central America Hidden Strategy

From 1558 to 1700 : The foundations of the Kingdom of Guatemala

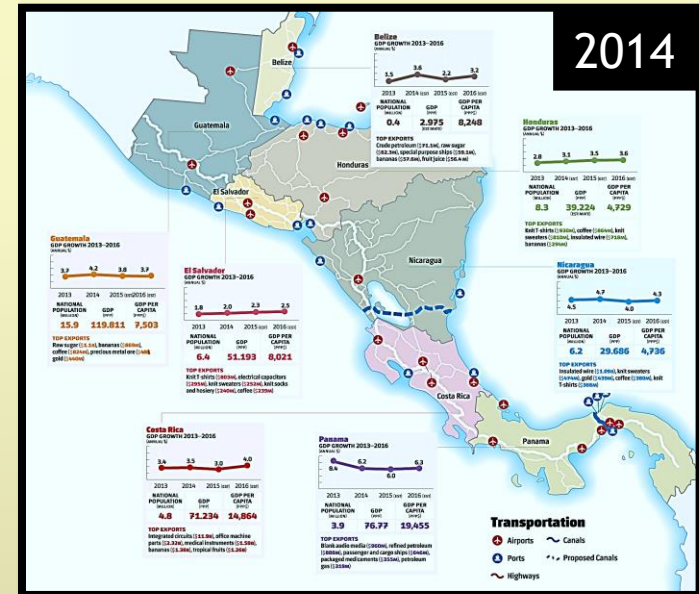


Why the Kingdom of Guatemala was designed as a closed economy.



1657

- The Spanish colonialism in the Kingdom of Guatemala wasn't seen as an economic center of development with international expansionism for trade and services. It was seen as a household territory. A home that required privacy, a refuge to become self-sufficient for the new society: food, shelter, construction materials, religious activities, artistic venues, etc.
- It was a royal ecclesiastical order that required a political new organization that could help to change the ancient cultural upbringing of the native Indians.
- The Guatemala dioceses included El Salvador, and the most important cities (villages) were at the skirts of the volcanos or mountains.
- According to Adrian Van Oss, the cacao and añil plantations were never designed for relevant maritime trade. The basic subsistence industries were spread between 16 different provinces: Ciudad Real (Chiapas), Totonicapán, Quetzaltenango, Santiago de Guatemala, Sonsonate, San Miguel, Comayagua, Gracias a Dios, Tegucigalpa, San Pedro Sula, Nueva Segovia, León, Granada, Esparza and Cartago.
- These incipient craftsmanship economic sectors were traditional (with a medieval allure) related to agriculture/cattle raising, sugar, textiles, local and regional sourcing of the most required supplies, with European or Asian luxury import goods entering through terrestrial routes from México or Perú-Panamá.
- The highly density cities depended on the rural production of food and energy sources (wood or coal). Most of the labor was done by the low-class (Imported black slaves, Indians, mulatos and the rest below). We will dedicate more time to analyze the labor, economic sectors and social stratification of the Central American societies in chapter 12.



Central America main economic exports 2014. Data source: <https://www.americasquarterly.org/fullwidthpage/aq-graphic-an-overview-of-central-americas-economies-and-infrastructure/>

- MAIN EXPORTS**
- Raw sugar, bananas, coffee, tropical fruits
 - Knitted clothing
 - Integrated circuits
 - Refined petroleum
 - Insulated wire
 - Office machine parts
 - Precious metal ore and gold

MAIN EXPORTS

- Sugar, añil and cacao (no more than 5% GDP).
- The rest of the products were for local consumption: the domestic production to fulfill the needs and wants of the

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populations: weaved textiles, tobacco, German crockery, artists, tiles, nets, cotton white fabric, vegetables, cereals (beans and maiz) diary, etc.

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Central America Hidden Strategy

From 1558 to 1700 : The foundations of the Kingdom of Guatemala



Velázquez, Diego: Portrait of Infante Carlos Habsburg (1607-1632). Prado Museum, Madrid.

The Kingdom of Guatemala was designed a self-sufficient dwelling home. Never as a trading development region for international commerce.

- It is so crucial to understand the philosophical aspects of thought of the Spanish Habsburg kings. They were facing two choices: To stay in Europe, under recurrent warfare; or to find a new peaceful place for their descendants. We suggest, when they faced the beauty of the region, they did not only adore Central America, but they were certain that their time in Europe wasn't the priority anymore. We suggest, they decided to build their new own society under their own rules.
- The real reason why they decided to protect the Native Indians is not yet clear by scholars. Some believe that it was a labor need rationale. Others see it from the evangelization mandate of Jesus. We simply believe that the prince or the king mixed with Native population, and they learned to treasure them as humans, otherwise the natives would have been killed without any type of hesitation. That is our bet.
- When a king considers a region as a dwelling refuge, he is not interested to develop it economically. He doesn't want others to learn about it.
- The feudalist system of the Medieval Spanish Habsburg mentality consisted in two classes: the royal family and the servants. That mentality was transferred to the Spanish Colonies in America, but they didn't want to be known as a royal family. The concept of « hidden royal family » may have started a new royal corporate strategy for the Spanish Habsburg dynasty then.
- Additionally, the concept of serfdom was so ingrained, that everyone around the « concealed royal family » were considered as their royal housekeepers, performing the compulsory economic activities, merely vassals at their new society service. At least, we imply this occurred meanwhile the Spanish Crown was under the Spanish Catholic Habsburg leadership. And the new Guatemalan society was organized using that philosophical approach.
- If the kingdom of Guatemala was a hidden refuge, a special home for the “ secreted royal family” then they wanted to keep it as a top-secret from everyone around them. A new society model was vital then.
- To be continued...

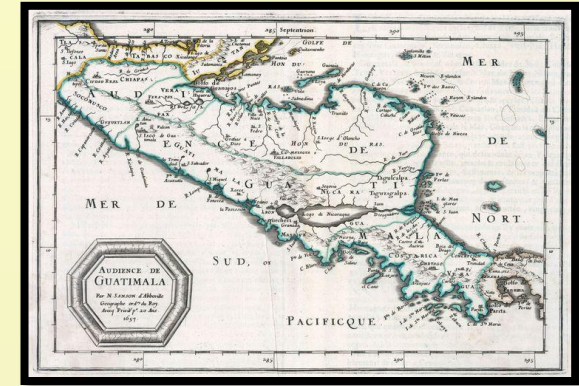
Next week, our following chapter is: “Central America Hidden Strategy: Walloping a secret beyond gold”.

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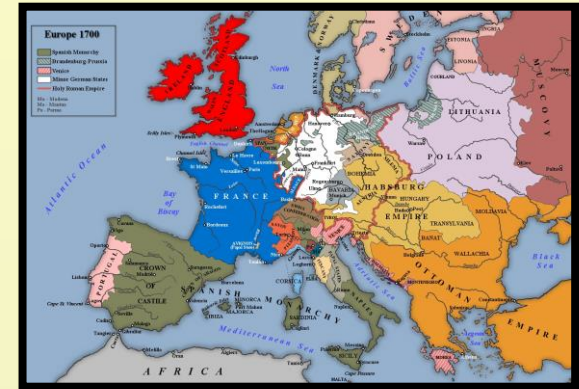
Valle de Panchoy, Antigua Guatemala

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Europe after the Treaty of Westphalia 1700
https://loselves.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/europe_1700_-_1714.jpg



El colapso del poderío Español 1640-1714.
<https://geografiatriana.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/crisisxvii.jpg>

*Things do not pass for what they are
but for what they seem; few look within
and many are satisfied with the
appearances.*

Baltazar Gracian. The Oracle, 1647

Thank you.

Eleonora Escalante MBA-MEng.

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A piece of the artwork: Isabel Queen of Spain (Elizabeth De Bourbon-Medici Habsburg)

Source: <https://www.museodelprado.es/coleccion/obra-de-arte/isabel-de-borbon-reina-de-espaa-primera-esposa-de/88fa4d66-3089-40b2-a9f8-d7f97587d266>