

## Cultural Transformation Assignment

A concise history of the Caribbean & Ambivalent conquests maya and spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1570

The Spanish Colonization in Caribbean began with the advent of Columbus in 1492 who conquered several islands.

### Question 1a

The Spanish Colonization in Caribbean began with the advent of Columbus in 1492 who conquered several islands. Although Columbus did not establish many permanent colonies, he paved the path for future Spanish colonization in the Caribbean. The Spanish Colonization of Caribbean initially aimed at converting people to Christianity; however, their core motive was to look for gold and silver to pay for all their debts and expenses in previous explorations. In Caribbean Islands, Hispaniola was the only colony where the Spanish settled and it became the center of the Spanish colonial system in the Caribbean as it was known as the Pearl of the Caribbean. Similarly, Spanish aimed at capturing Yucatan as well for converting the large group of Mayan people to Christianity, however, monetary gain was the true cause of the colonization. Thus, the conquest of Caribbean and Yucatan are similar in the sense that both of them were aimed at extracting resources from the native people and enjoying a luxurious life by finding out reserves of gold and silver (Higman, 2010).

The Tainos welcomed the Spaniards with open hands. They traded with the Spanish people and did everything to please them. Tainos thought that the Spaniards were gods. However, Tainos were compelled to work in the mines. Columbus also made the Tainos pay the Spanish a tribute to satisfy both the Crown's and the settler's greed for gold, and to obtain food for his settlement. The Spaniards met little resistance by the Tainos in Hispaniola and the Spanish conquest of the indigenous people in Hispaniola resulted in a new system of government, which had a negative effect on the Tainos, due to the introduction of different economic policies and activities and devastating changes in the Taino culture. Initially, the Spanish colonization did not result in significant control over the Mayans in its early years nor a significant impact on them, however