

## COLONIALISM AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

### The Catholic Church

The Catholic Church had great power and influence in Spain and in America during the times of the Conquest and Colonialism. Religious orders started arriving in America to convert the indigenous to Catholic religion, teach them the catholic principles and protect them from the Spanish abuse.

### The Church and the Spanish Crown

- A. Spanish Crown (Monarchy) created a system called Royal Patronage (Patronato Real), which claimed the right to intervene in the issues of the Church in America.
- B. The Church collected tithe, a tax, the 10% of the income that was paid to the Church in all income.
- C. The Crown chose the candidates for the Church positions and organized the Church in America.
- D. Monarchy planned the construction of churches, monasteries, convents and hospitals that were run by the priests.
- E. Pase Regio, or exequatur, was the King's right to approve the rules and laws the Pope wanted to enact in America.

## RELIGIOUS ORDERS DURING COLONIALISM



In the 18th Century Chile built its **first University**: The Royal University of San Felipe, today called University of Chile (Universidad de Chile)

Different **religious orders** arrived in America with the purpose of converting the indigenous to Catholicism and also to **develop education** in the colonies.

The most important were the Dominicans, Augustinians, Franciscans, Jesuits and the Order of Merced.

**The Jesuits:** ran large Haciendas and established **missions** to convert the native.

This order **managed schools** in the colonies. Priests were teachers who taught the people to read, write and count as Primary education.

In Secondary, they teach theology, humanities and grammar. After that they would have Post Secondary education or University education, which was available in a few large capital cities of America.



## RELIGIOUS SYNCRETISM

Native peoples resisted and refused to accept the foreign religion and insisted in keeping their **beliefs** and **gods**.

There were indigenous living and working in the **Encomienda system** converted to Catholicism, but there were others who accepted parts of the Catholic religion, so they produced a **mixture** of their ancestral **beliefs** that blended with **ideas from Catholicism**.

This combination is called: **religious syncretism**.

Christian and indigenous elements made the conversion to Christianity easier and became popular religious traditions we still have today.

One clear example is the **Virgin**, which replaced the indigenous female gods and became the protector of the indigenous against the abuse of the Spanish.



**Carnivals**, and other celebrations that take place during Holy week and Easter in America include indigenous traditions, like dances, Latin American musical instruments and costumes.



After reading the text answer the following tasks

**I. Select the correct functions of the Catholic orders in America**

To write rules established by the Crown.

To teach Indigenous the catholic principles

To grow crops in the Haciendas

To convert the indigenous to Catholic religion

To protect Indigenous from the Spanish abuse.

**II. Select the religious order that came to Chile**

Dominicans

Augustinians

Mercederians

Franciscans

Teresians

Jesuits

Order of Merced

**III. True or False**

- \_\_\_ Royal Patronage intervened the Church in America.
- \_\_\_ The Viceroy run the monasteries, convents and hospitals.
- \_\_\_ Pase regio was the power the king had of approving the Pope's rules.

**IV. Multiple Choice. Select the correct alternative**

1. Religious Syncretism is the combination of:
  - a) Catholic songs and indigenous language.
  - b) Catholic elements and Indigenous beliefs.
  - c) Mestizo language and colonial church
2. One example of Religious Syncretism is:
  - a) Traditional Fiesta de la Tirana
  - b) New Year Celebration
  - c) Ramadas and Fondas