

Ch 2 The American Colonies Emerge

Section 1 Spain's Empire in the Americas

The Spanish Claim a New Empire

Cortés Subdues the Aztec

- **Conquistadors** (conquerors)—Spanish explorers, seek gold, silver
- 1519 **Hernándo Cortés** leads army into Americas, claims land for Spain
- Aztec dominate region; Nahua people who resent Aztec join Cortés
- Montezuma thinks Cortés a god; gives him share of Aztec gold
- In 1520 Aztec rebel; in 1521 Spanish and their allies defeat Aztec
- Cortés founds Mexico City, **New Spain** colony on Tenochtitlán ruins

Spanish Pattern of Conquest

- Spanish settlers mostly men, called *peninsulares*; marry native women
- **Mestizo**—person of mixed Spanish and Native American ancestry
- Landlords use *encomienda*—force natives to farm, ranch, mine
- Priests object, *encomienda* abolished because it brutally exploited Native Americans; Africans brought as slaves

The Conquistadors Push North

Other Countries Explore North America

- England, France, Netherlands sponsor voyages in 1500s and 1600s

Exploring Florida

- **Juan Ponce de León** discovers and names *La Florida* (1513)
- Florida was abandoned by the Spanish in 1562 after years of economic failure
- Pedro Menéndez de Avilés expels French, founds St. Augustine (1565)

Settling the Southwest

- In 1540, Francisco Vásquez de Coronado leads expedition to Southwest to find precious metals
- Pedro de Peralta, governor of **New Mexico**, Spain's northern holdings
- He helps found Santa Fe (1609–1610); several missions built in area

Resistance to the Spanish

Conflict in New Mexico

- Priests convert many Native Americans, try to suppress their culture
- In 1670s Spanish force natives to pay tribute, do labor for missions

Popé's Rebellion

- Pueblo religious leader Popé heads uprising in New Mexico (1680)
- Pueblo destroy Spanish churches, execute priests, force Spanish out
- Spanish armies regain area 14 years later