

15.3: Compendium and Description of the West Indies questions

1. What are the conditions of labor for the workers in the mercury and silver mines according to Espinosa? Why are there abuses? Whose interests do the operations of the mines serve?

According to Espinosa, the working conditions for the employees at the mercury and silver mines were so terrible that they would begin working at 1pm every Monday until around 7pm every Saturday. They are mistreated since they are defenseless against death, poisoning, etc. Indians benefit from mine activities in their best interests.

2. Do the operations of the Potosì mine represent hierarchies working for network interests, networks working for hierarchy interests, or some combination of both? Explain. Would the Tlaxcalan cabildo or Zhang Han approve of the operations?

Hierarchies working for network interests and networks working for hierarchy interests are both represented by the Potos mine's activities. This is due to the fact that the Potos' operations are carried out in a specific manner in several tiers and are also ranked by it. I think the operations would be approved by the Tlaxcala cabildo.