Ayisha Adekanmbi

Professor O'Hara

World Civ II

27 January 2023

Frame Your World: Spanish American Worlds Hierarchy

In the late Agrarian Era, Spanish America was in the process of transitioning from being known as a conquest society into a naturalized hierarchy. Spanish rule depended on informal social powers by elites (European) and the lower level of indigenous people. In fact, the Spanish crown produced a format of the American elites under the Spanish administration by having the effect of a distant Spanish king.

In regards to class distinctions ranking/power directly correlated to skin color. At the top you would have the distant Spanish king, under him the Spanish administration, then the Catholic Administration, then the Creoles (or American born- natives), next the indigenous population or (*castas)*, and lastly the African slaves. Due to the lack of European women; European males started to marry native women, which caused native men to marry African women. This caused a surge in various racial mixes and intermarriages. This system that was used is known as the *castas* or racial gradation. An important aspect of the Spanish American hierarchy is that it lacked formal military power. These Spanish colonies focused more emphasis on royal power.

In regards to the British colonies in America, they differed greatly from the Latin American colonies mostly in the fact that the British colonies created strict racial divides with no

intermarriage. Mixed-race offsprings were considered to be of full African descent; the same applies to the indigenous people in the colonies. In regards to the power and framework of the British American colonies; they were founded based on a partnership between state and private interests. This was reflected in various contracts acquired by settlers, colonies, and royal charters; this brought a legal aspect to the connection between the state and society.

To sum up, in my opinion, the differences and similarities of our government compared to late Agrarian Spanish America are pretty balanced. The framework of our government today was heavily influenced based on many of the contracts and documents created by the British American colonies. This can be reflected in the relationships between state and private interests that can still be seen today. For example, these interests can be found in Agriculture and farming today. One similarity from the Spanish American colonies is the relationship of intermarriages that are prevalent in our world today; as America is very diverse and full of people from different backgrounds. A major difference between our government and Spanish America/ British America is that our government isn't contingent on racial divides; people of all backgrounds are supposed to be given a fair shot in our government today.

Works Cited

Morillo, Stephen. *Frameworks of World History: Networks, Hierarchies, Culture*. 1st ed., vol. 2. pg 513-516