

Lesson #9 U.S. History Conversion of Natives

The Spanish always moved with two priest to convert the native population. That conversion was done with bribes, better food supply (cows and pigs) plus wheat), clothes and the destruction of native culture. They first built Presidio's and Mission. The Alamo was one such Presidio and Mission.



How to convince Native population of gentle God when Jesus was hanging on the Cross.

Aztec Sacrifice to gods



Christian Son of God



Solution Jesus became the Cross



Queen Isabella's Indian Policy

Medina del Campo, December 20, 1503

**Isabella, by the Grace of God,
Queen of Castile, etc.**

In as much as the King, my Lord, and I, in the instruction we commanded given to Don Fray Nicolas de Ovando, Comendador mayor of Alcantara, at the time we went to the islands and mainland of the Ocean sea, decreed that the Indian inhabitants and residents of said island of Espanola, are free and not subject...and as now we are informed that because of the excessive liberty enjoyed by said Indians they avoid contact and community with Spaniards to such an extent they will not even work for wages, but wander about idle, and cannot be had by the Christians to convert to the Holy Catholic Faith; and in order that the Christians of the said island...may not lack people to work their holding for their maintenance, and may be able to take out what gold there is on the island...and because we desire that the said Indians be converted to our Holy Catholic Faith and taught in its doctrines; and because this can better be done by having the Indians living in community with Christians of the island, and by having them go among them and associate with them, by which means they will help each other to cultivate and settle and increase the fruits of the island and take the gold which may be there and bring profit to my Kingdom and subjects:

I have commanded this my letter to be issued on the matter, in which I command you, our said governor, that beginning from the day the said Indians associate with the Christians of the island and to work on their buildings, and to gather the mine the gold and other metals, and till the fields and produce food for Christian inhabitants and dwellers of the said island; and you are to have one paid on the day of works the wage and maintenance which you think he should have... and you are to order each cacique to take charge of a certain number of the said Indians so that you may make them work whenever necessary, and so that on feast days and such days as you think proper they may be gathered together to hear and be taught in matters of the Faith.... This the Indians shall perform as free people, which they are, and not as slaves. And see to it that the said Indians are well treated, those who become Christians better than others, and do not consent or allow that any person do them harm or oppress them....

I, the Queen

Were they Free?