**Born in Blood and Fire (Chapter 2: Colonial Crucible)**

**Class Discussion Questions/Concepts**

Instructions: The following questions will be discussed in a group setting. I will not be picking these questions up; however, you should review each of them in order to prepare for this seminar. You will receive a grade for your participation in this class discussion/seminar. Students will need to make relevant and insightful connections throughout the entire class discussion/seminar to receive an A for this assignment.

1. What enabled Europeans to carve out huge empires an ocean away from their continent?
2. Motivations for European exploration
3. European advantages? Why didn’t Asia and Arab merchants participate in the *Age of Exploration*?
4. How did the *Columbian Exchange* change the global balance of power?
5. How was European involvement/colonies in Asia different from European involvement/colonies in the Americas?
6. How did Spain and Portugal repay enormous costs of transportation across the Atlantic?
7. Elaborate on Iberian Peninsula’s tense multicultural history.
8. How did economics eventually upstage religion in the Latin American colonies?
9. What was the economic foundation of colonial rule in Mexico and Peru? How did it shape the kinds of societies that arose there?
10. What was the significance of *Potosi and Zacatecas*?
11. How did the economic priorities of the Spanish and Portuguese Crown determine the political organization of their Latin American colonies? (Ex: “Brazilwood” and *engenho*- “mill lords”)
12. What was the significance of the *royal fifth*?
13. What was the significance of *viceroys/viceroyalties*?
14. Compare Spain vs Portugal (Brazil) urban centers in Latin America (importance of urban centers).
15. *Hegemony*:
	1. What is it?
	2. How did *hegemony* establish colonial control in Latin America? Iberian colonizers and their American born decedents were a small minority even in the core areas, so how did they maintain control over so much of the Western Hemisphere for three centuries (hegemonic rather than absolutely dominating)?
	3. Examples?
16. Gender roles in Latin American colonies: “*honor system*” and *Sor Juana Ines De La Cruz* example
17. African slaves in Latin American society and the “honor system”
18. *Transculturation*: causes, effects, examples
19. *Haciendas* vs *plantations*
20. Race mixing (*casta system*)
21. *The Black Legend*
22. In your opinion, does the media overuse the word “slave”- what exactly makes someone a slave?
23. Chattel slavery vs other forms of coerced labor
24. *African Diaspora*
25. Compare indigenous and African slave resistance and rebellions to European rule in Latin America (examples, effects)