The Economic andelon.com of Spanish Imperialism in America, 1492–1810

JOHN R. FISHER University of Liverpool

Contents

	List of figures and tables	V111
1	Introduction The historiographical context	1
	Chapter structure and methodology	1 5
2	Economic Aspects of Spanish Imperial	
	Expansion, 1492–1550	12
	Motives for European overseas expansion	12
	The first voyage of Christopher Columbus	14
	Columbus' second, third, and fourth voyages	18
	Hernán Cortés and the conquest of Mexico	20
	Early trade between Spain and America	22
	Exploration in South America	24
3	Commodities and Resources During the	
	Conquest Period	31
	The Columbian Exchange and its economic potential	31
	The reality of economic and commercial exchange	37
4	The Hapsburg Commercial System	43
	Origins	43
	Structure and principal features	46
	Trans-Atlantic commercial trends, 1550-1700	56
5	Inter-Colonial Trade and the Hapsburg	
	Commercial System	63
	Current historiography and its limitations	63
	Peruvian-Mexican trade and the Manila galleon	65
	Caribbean and South American trade	68

vi Contents

6	Foreign Penetration of the Ibero-American	
	Economy in the Hapsburg Period	72
	Motives and significance	72
	The Caribbean	76
	The Pacific	84
	The Río de la Plata	88
7	Economic Growth in Spanish America in	
	the Hapsburg Period	92
	Economic interdependence	92
	Mining	93
	Agriculture	102
	Industry	105
8	Commercial and Economic Relations in the	
	Early Bourbon Period, 1700-1765	110
	The new dynasty	110
	The War of the Spanish Succession	112
	The Treaty of Utrecht	118
	The War of Jenkins' Ear	125
	The Seven Years' War	130
9	'Free Trade' and the Peninsular Economy	134
	The introduction of 'free trade', 1765–89	134
	Exports from Spain to America, 1778-96	143
	Exports to America and Spanish regional economies	147
	American markets for Spanish exports	153
10	'Free Trade' and the American Economy	160
	Values of imports into Spain from America	160
	Ports of arrival	164
	Commodities	167
	Origins of imports	170
	The mining industry in the Bourbon era	186

	Contents	VII
11	Economic Relations Between Spain and America on the Eve of the Revolutions for	
	Independence	197
	Economic growth in the late eighteenth century	197
	Commercial and economic trends, 1797-1810	201
12	Conclusion: Economic Grievances and	
	Insurrection in Late Colonial Spanish	
	America	207
	The abdication of economic authority	207
	Anti-fiscal protests in the late colonial period	210
	Appendix: Spanish Monarchs	217
	Glossary of Spanish Terms	218
	Bibliographical Essay	220
	Index	231