

Early Colonial Perspectives Historical Analysis Prep  
Complete and bring to class on Monday, September 18

Name:

***Key Terms to Define & Explain Significance***

The Requirement (*El Requerimiento*)

***Reading Interpretation & Analysis***

1. Bauer argues that “the kind, quality, and the way food was placed on the table, the quality of cloth and the design of shoes were all finely tuned instruments of social and political standing, quickly grasped by all those jostling for standing.”<sup>1</sup>

Later this week, you’ll sign up for your Wikipedia entry to improve. The entry you pick should be related to your larger material culture research question, but you can take a broader approach for Wikipedia.

What looking at the list, or drawing on your own personal interests, what object might you want to study? Giving as much detail as possible, how would you apply Bauer’s insight to describe your object as a reflection of Colonial power relations? Categories of difference?

Your chosen object:

Interpretation (be as detailed as possible):

2. Social historians seeking to better understand the past are always forced to grapple with the unevenness of the historical record, or what Schwartz calls the “silences” of the historical records.<sup>2</sup> What strategies will **you** use to piece together the events described in *Victors and Vanquished*?

---

<sup>1</sup> Arnold J. Bauer, *Goods, Power, History: Latin America’s Material Culture* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 84.

<sup>2</sup> Stuart B. Schwartz, *Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahuatl Views of the Conquest of Mexico* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2000), 27.

3. What does Seed argue the Requirement reveals about Spanish ideas of colonial rule? Of religious authority?

4. Read the Requirement closely, paying close attention to the language. What strikes you about this document?