AP World History

Oceania: Jesuits and Guam

Objective: After reading the article entitled, *Jesuit Missionaries as Agents of Empire: The Spanish-Chamorro War and Ecological Effects of Conversion on Guam, 1668-1769*, students will discuss the points provided below to enhance their understanding of the “interwoven factors of imperialism, conversion, colonial warfare and environmental change.”

Task: In small discussion circles students will share their understanding the text by way of the discussion points provided by the teacher. Each point is followed by secondary questions to help move the conversation forward.

**Points for Discussion**

**Consider: “…*the historical record shows that the ‘cross and the ‘sword’ not only worked hand in hand to subjugate the island, but that the ‘cross’ often successfully directly the violence of the ‘sword’ for its own ends.”***

* How did the missionary approach of the Jesuits on Guam compare to their work in China and Latin America?
* What specific elements of Chamorro society account for these differences?
* Given the nature of Chamorro society, are there techniques that the Jesuits might have employed which would have been more effective?

**Consider: Wiecko refers to Quiroga (governor) as a “monk in soldier’s garb” and well-experienced in European-style war”**

* Is there an inherent contradiction between the goals of the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Reformation and the actions of those involved with these movements?
* Were the actions/goals of the Jesuits in Guam simply an extension of their goals on the Continent, or something different/more?

**Consider: Why are there such variations in the interpretation of the Jesuit missionaries role and impact on Guam?**

* Why and how does the world history approach, as opposed to the local history approach of the 1960s and 1970s impact interpretation?
* How do the people of Guam, “Guamanians” not “Chamorros”, as Wieko suggests, direct historical interpretation, and why do you think the Jesuits were honored in the end?
* Is it correct to refer to the Jesuits as agents of empire?  Would empire building have been possible without this element? What did you find the most surprising about the article

**Conclusion**

Discussion team will develop a comprehensive and analytical thesis that highlights the two models of conversion put forward by Jesuits in China and the Americas.