Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Wednesday 12 June 2019

Afternoon | Paper Reference **9HI0/32**

History

Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth
Option 32: The Golden Age of Spain, 1474-1598

Source Booklet

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Source for use with Section A.

From a lecture by Domingo de Soto, a Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Salamanca, March 1559. De Soto established a new study at the university on the economic situation in Spain focussing on the causes and the impact of the price revolution.

Many people in Spain are suffering the effects of a high cost of living and we are trying to discover and understand the reasons behind this. These effects are beginning to lead to great differences in the lives of the people and to their communities. In some places, merchandise becomes more valuable when in strong demand and short supply. In other areas in Spain, where there is a great scarcity of money, all goods are cheap and the work of the people gets very little reward. A visiting professor has told us that also in France, where less money is in circulation, bread, wine, cloth and labour are cheaper.

Some believe that the discovery of the Indies has transformed the situation in Spain by flooding the country with precious metals, especially gold and silver. The wealth of the New World has come into Seville and transformed this great religious city. A vast new building to control the trade has been built alongside the great Cathedral and the power of money has begun to challenge the power of the Church in the minds of many. The tomb of Columbus in the Cathedral is as much respected as those of the saints of the church. However, some areas of Spain have not shared in this wealth and on two occasions the great trade fair at Medina del Campo has been cancelled. There have been reports that some of the goods produced in our country have been sold abroad because of the poverty of our people.

In many areas there have been bad harvests which has led to terrible suffering in areas where the number of people has been increasing. The burdens on our people are getting greater and many have felt that this is the judgement of God for our neglect of Christian values.

The borrowings of our King have made matters worse with much money being used to pay off the massive debts he has built up by borrowing huge sums from foreign bankers. A money market has developed which has created wealth but also suffering. There is a fear that the values that should be the basis of our lives will be eaten away.

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