Chapter 11 Summary

Changes to the Aztec Way of Life

Wealth

- Aztecs were forced to become part of a new economic system that made them powerless.
- Aztecs worked in mines and on farms but were rarely paid.
- The Aztecs had no opportunity to gain wealth.

Religion

- The Aztecs felt their gods abandoned them.
- Gradually, many Aztecs converted to the Catholic faith.
- Aztec temples and codices were destroyed by the Spanish, which meant no records for the people.

Social Status

- Aztecs were at the bottom of the social pyramid.
- Rights to Aztecs were rarely granted.
- Many Aztecs experienced abuse at the hands of landowners and miners.

Desire for Independence

- Colonists had no opportunity to overturn Spanish rule.
- The encomienda system resulted in mixed people who were loyal to both sides.
- Colonists did not gain independence from Spain until 1821.