

Juan Gines de Sepúlveda's four arguments

(1) "that these people are barbaric, uninstructed in the art of government, and completely ignorant, unreasoning, and totally incapable of learning anything (...) that the Indians are obliged by natural law to obey those who are outstanding in virtue and character.

(2) "that the Indians, even though unwilling, must accept the Spanish yoke (joug/domination) so that they may be corrected and be punished for their sins and crimes against divine and natural law . (...)

(3) "that the injuries and extreme misery which the Indians used to inflict and. . . still inflict today (...) that all who can do so are held by natural and divine law to defend any and all persons from such injuries.

(4) "that once those regions have been brought under control, the gospel of Christ can be preached (...) that it is totally just, as well as most beneficial to these barbarians (...)

Bartolome de las Casas counter--arguments

(1) "that it is unlawful to force the Indians to the faith by war (...)

(2) for it is very easy for our rulers to subject that people to their authority without the disturbances of war.

(3) "The kings are commanded to have as their purpose leading the Indians to the faith. It is granted that subjection to their rule is helpful.

4) "War is not a suitable means for spreading Christ's glory and the truth of the gospel. ...) Since war should not be waged unless there has first been a provocation (...)war against the Indians is unlawful."

IMAGINE YOUR ARE SEPULVEDA OR LAS CASAS AND WRITE A 300-WORD LETTER TO THE KING OF SPAIN TO EXPLAIN YOUR POINT OF VIEW