

## The Spanish Inquisition

The Spanish Inquisition was independent of the medieval Inquisition. It was established (1478) by Ferdinand and Isabella with the reluctant approval of Sixtus IV. One of the first and most notorious heads was Tomas de Torquemada. It was entirely controlled by the Spanish kings, and the pope's only hold over it was in naming the inquisitor general. The popes were never reconciled to the institution, which they regarded as usurping a church prerogative.

The purpose of the Spanish Inquisition was to discover and punish converted Jews (and later Muslims) who were insincere. However, soon no Spaniard could feel safe from it; thus, St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Theresa of Ávila were investigated for heresy. The censorship policy even condemned books approved by the Holy See. The Spanish Inquisition was much harsher, more highly organized, and far freer with the death penalty than the medieval Inquisition; its autos-da-fé became notorious. The Spanish government tried to establish the Inquisition in all its dominions; but in the Spanish Netherlands the local officials did not cooperate, and the inquisitors were chased (1510) out of Naples, apparently with the pope's connivance. The Spanish Inquisition was finally abolished in 1834.

Read more: Inquisition: The Spanish Inquisition —

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/society/A0858834.html#ixzz1BAzWp3wN>

## The Medieval Inquisition

In the early Middle Ages investigation of heresy was a duty of the bishops. Alarmed especially by the spread of Albigensianism (see Albigenses), the popes issued increasingly stringent instructions as to the methods for dealing with heretics. Finally, in 1233, Pope Gregory IX established the papal Inquisition, dispatching Dominican friars to S France to conduct inquests.

When an inquisitor arrived, a month of grace was allowed to all who wished to confess to heresy and to recant; these were given a light penance, which was intended to confirm their faith. After the period of grace, persons accused of heresy who had not abjured were brought to trial. The defendants were not given the names of their accusers, but they could name their enemies and thus nullify any testimony by these persons. After 1254 the accused had no right to counsel, but those found guilty could appeal to

the pope. The trials were conducted secretly in the presence of a representative of the bishop and of a stipulated number of local laymen. Torture of the accused and his witnesses soon became customary and notorious, despite the long-standing papal condemnation of torture (e.g., by Nicholas I); Innocent IV ultimately permitted torture in cases of heresy.

Most trials resulted in a guilty verdict, and the church handed the condemned over to the secular authorities for punishment. Burning at the stake was thought to be the fitting punishment for unrecanted heresy, probably through analogy with the Roman law on treason. However, the burning of heretics was not common in the Middle Ages; the usual punishments were penance, fine, and imprisonment. A verdict of guilty also meant the confiscation of property by the civil ruler, who might turn over part of it to the church. This practice led to graft, blackmail, and simony and also created suspicion of some of the inquests. Generally the inquisitors were eager to receive abjurations of heresy and to avoid trials. Secular rulers came to use the persecution of heresy as a weapon of state, as in the case of the suppression of the Knights Templars.

The Inquisition was an emergency device and was employed mainly in S France, N Italy, and Germany. In 1542, Paul III assigned the medieval Inquisition to the Congregation of the Inquisition, or Holy Office. This institution, which became known as the Roman Inquisition, was intended to combat Protestantism, but it is perhaps best known historically for its condemnation of Galileo. After the Second Vatican Conference, it was replaced (1965) by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which governs vigilance in matters of faith.

Sections in this article:

Read more: Inquisition: The Medieval Inquisition — Infoplease.com  
<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/society/A0858833.html#ixzz1BDURZCa9>

Encyclopedia

## **The Mexican Inquisition was an extension of the Spanish Inquisition**

Spanish Inquisition

The Tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition, commonly known as the Spanish Inquisition, was a tribunal established in 1478 by Catholic Monarchs Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile. It was intended to maintain Catholic orthodoxy in their kingdoms, and to replace the Medieval...

into the New World

## **New World**

The New World is one of the names used for the Western Hemisphere, specifically America. The term originated in the late 15th century, when America had been recently discovered by European explorers, expanding the geographical horizon of the European middle Ages which had thought of the world as...

. The Spanish Conquest of Mexico was not only a political event for the Spanish, but a religious event as well. In the early 16th century, the Reformation

## **Protestant Reformation**

The Protestant Reformation, also called the Protestant Revolt or simply The Reformation, was the European Christian reform movement that established Protestantism as a constituent branch of contemporary Christianity..., the Counter-Reformation

## **Counter-Reformation**

Counter-Reformation denotes the period of Catholic revival beginning with the Council of Trent and ending at the close of the Thirty Years' War, 1648 as a response to the Protestant Reformation. The Counter-Reformation was a comprehensive effort, composed of four major elements: Ecclesiastical or... and the Inquisition

## **Inquisition**

The term Inquisition or inquisition can apply to any one of several institutions which fought against heretics within the justice-system of the Roman Catholic Church. Although similar institutions existed within Calvinist or other Protestant churches, the term "Inquisition" is usually applied to... were in full force in most of Europe. The Spaniards had just re-conquered the Iberian Peninsula

## **Iberian Peninsula**

The Iberian Peninsula is located in the extreme southwest of Europe and includes modern-day states Portugal, Spain, Andorra, the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar and a very small area of France. It is the westernmost of the three major southern European peninsulas—the Iberian, Italian, and...

, giving them special status within the Roman Catholic realm, including great liberties in the conversion of the native peoples of Mesoamerica

## **Mesoamerica**

Mesoamerica or Meso-America is a region and culture area in the Americas, extending approximately from central Mexico to Honduras and Nicaragua, within which a number of pre-Columbian societies flourished before the Spanish colonization of the Americas in the 15th and 16th centuries. Prehistoric... When the Inquisition was brought to the New World

## **New World**

The New World is one of the names used for the Western Hemisphere, specifically America. The term originated in the late 15th century, when America had been recently discovered by European explorers, expanding the geographical horizon of the European middle Ages which had thought of the world as..., it was employed for many of the same reasons and against the same social groups as suffered in Europe

## **Europe**

Europe is one of the world's seven continents. Comprising the westernmost peninsula of Eurasia, Europe is generally divided from Asia to its east by the water divide of the Ural Mountains, the Ural River, the Caspian Sea, the Caucasus region and the Black Sea to the southeast...

itself, minus the Indians to a large extent. Almost all of events associated with the official establishment of the Holy Office of the Inquisition occurred in Mexico City

## **Mexico City**

Mexico City is the capital and largest city in Mexico as well as the largest city in the Americas and the world's third largest metropolitan area by population, after Seoul and Tokyo. Mexico City is also the Federal District, the seat of the federal government...

, where the Holy Office had its own "palace", which is now the Museum of Medicine of UNAM

## **Unam**

UNAM or UNaM may refer to: \* National University of Misiones, a National University in Posadas, Argentina \* National Autonomous University of Mexico, the large public autonomous university based in Mexico City... on Republica de Brasil street. The official period of the Inquisition lasted from 1571 to 1820, with an unknown number of victims.

## **Spanish Catholicism**

The Mexican Inquisition was an extension of what had been going on in Spain and the rest of Europe for some time. Spanish Catholicism had been reformed under the reign of Isabella the Catholic (1479–1504), which reaffirmed medieval doctrines and tightened up discipline and practice. She also introduced the Holy Office of the Inquisition in 1480, combining secular and religious authority in the matter. Much of the zeal to reaffirm traditional Catholic tenets came from the history of the Reconquista

## **Reconquista**

The Reconquista was a period of about 700 years in the Middle Ages during which several Christian kingdoms of the Iberian Peninsula succeeded in retaking the Iberian Peninsula from the Muslim Al-Andalus Province.... Those who overthrew Muslim

## **Muslim**

:A Muslim or Moslem is an adherent of the religion of Islam. Literally, the word means "one who submits". Muslim is the participle of the same verb of which Islam is the infinitive. domination of the peninsula were very committed to the purpose of making Catholicism completely dominant wherever they could. After the discovery and conquest of the New World, this effort to spread the faith included the belief that the non-Christians there would benefit from instruction in the "true faith."

## **Introduction of Christianity to New Spain**

This intermingling led to the Spanish crown's complete domination of religious matters in New Spain. Pope Alexander VI in 1493 and later Pope Julius II in 1508 gave the crown extensive authority over this domain with the goal of converting the Indians to Catholicism. Spanish officials appointed religious authorities in Mexico and even had ability to reject papal bull

## **Papal bull**

A Papal bull is a particular type of letters patent or charter issued by a pope. It is named after the bulla that was appended to the end in order to authenticate it....s there. The evangelization process and later Inquisition had political motivations. The objective of Christian conversion was to strengthen alternative sources of legitimacy to the traditional authority of the tlatoani

## **Tlatoani**

Tlatoani is the Nahuatl term for the ruler of an altepetl, a pre-Hispanic state. The word literally means "speaker", but may be translated into English as "king". A is a female ruler, or queen regnant..., or chief of the basic political unit of the city-state.

## **Franciscan**

Franciscan

The term Franciscan is most commonly used to refer to members of Catholic religious orders, founded by Saint Francis of Assisi. As well as Roman Catholic there are also small Old Catholic and Anglican Franciscan communities... friars began the work of evangelization

## **Evangelization**

Evangelization is that process in the Christian religion which seeks to spread the Gospel and the knowledge of the Gospel throughout the world. It can be defined as so:-The birth of Christian evangelization:... in the mid-1520s and continued under the first Bishop

## **Bishop**

A bishop is an ordained or consecrated member of the Christian clergy who is generally entrusted with a position of authority and oversight. Within the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox Churches, in the Assyrian Church of the East, in the Independent Catholic Churches, and in the... of Mexico, Fray Juan de Zumarraga

## **Juan de Zumárraga**

Juan de Zumárraga was a Spanish Basque Franciscan prelate and first bishop of Mexico. Zumárraga was born in Durango in the Biscay province in Spain. He entered the Franciscan Order, and in 1527 was custodian of the convent of Abrojo, where he received Charles V... in the 1530s. Many of the Franciscan evangelists learned the native languages and even recorded much of native culture, providing much of the current knowledge about them. The Dominicans arrived as well in 1525. They were both seen as intellectuals and agents of the Inquisition, due to their role as such in Spain. These two orders, along with the Augustinians

## **Augustinians**

The Augustinians, named after Saint Augustine of Hippo, are several Christian monastic orders and men and women living according to a guide to religious life known as the Rule of Saint Augustine.., provided most of the evangelization effort in Mexico. By 1560, these three orders had more than 800 clergy working in New Spain. Later the Jesuits would arrive in 1572. The number of Catholic clergy grew to 1,500 in 1580 and then to 3,000 by 1650. In the early years, the clergy's attention would be focused

on the conversion of the Indians. In the latter years, however, emphasis on struggles between religious orders as well as segments of the European society would take precedent.

A series of three ecclesiastical councils met during the course of the 16th century to give shape to the newly established Church in New Spain. In 1565, the Second Mexican Ecclesiastical Council met to discuss how to implement to the decisions of the Council of Trent

### **Council of Trent**

The Council of Trent was the 16th-century Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church. It is considered to be one of the Church's most important councils. It convened in Trent between December 13, 1545, and December 4, 1563 in twenty-five sessions for three periods...

(1546–1563). The Catholicism being imposed here was heavily influenced by the Counter-Reformation and required total assent from its believers. Its main thrust was not on individual belief or conscience but on collective observation of clerically ordained precepts and practices. This combination of authoritarianism and collectivism became transferred to the Indies during the course of the 16th century.

This sense of collectivism allowed for a certain amount of laxity in the conversion of the Indian population as many outward practices were indeed similar. Both systems intertwined religious and secular authority, practiced a type of baptism with subsequent renaming of the child and the practice of communion had parallels with eating replicas of Aztec divinities with blood. Franciscan and Dominican studies of Indian culture and language led to a certain amount of appreciation for it. It was definitely different from the Islam that the Reconquista had created such hatred for. Instead, indigenous religion was branded as paganism

### **Paganism**

Many refer to Pagan Practice as Paganism, but this is not how pagans label their culture. It is not a symbolic religion idolizing one god, but rather a set of practices involving rituals and traditions...

, and as an authentic religious experience but corrupted by demonic influences. Much of this was helped by the fact that many parallels could be drawn between the gods and the cults of the saints as well as the Virgin Mary. For this reason, evangelization did not result in a direct onslaught against indigenous belief but rather more an attempt to shift existing belief into a Christian paradigm. In the end, while in

theory Christianity was to have absolutely supremacy in all things religious, in practice, the Church did not oppose any practices that did not directly conflict with doctrine.

### **Indigenous adaptation to new religion**

The native population adjusted to those aspects of Christianity that accorded itself to the view of the cosmos they already knew, including the notion of the intertwining of both religious and secular authority. Many European and indigenous practices continued side-by-side and many indigenous beliefs and practices were redesigned with Christian names and references. The goal was to preserve as much of the ancient symbols that had always given meaning to the universe. The further away a community was from direct Church intervention, the thinner the Christian veneer was. Pre-Hispanic beliefs and practices therefore survived in the new religion and colored its expression. The most famous example of this may be the emergence of the cult of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Franciscan Fray Bernardino de Sahagún

### **Bernardino de Sahagún**

Bernardino de Sahagún was a Spanish Franciscan missionary to the Aztec people of Mexico, best known as the compiler of the Florentine Codex, also known as *Historia general de las cosas de Nueva España*...

suspected it was a post-Conquest adaptation of the Aztec cult of Tonatzin, a mother goddess. There was even some speculation at the time that the god Quetzalcoatl

### **Quetzalcoatl**

Quetzalcoatl is a Mesoamerican deity whose name comes from the Nahuatl language and has the meaning of "feathered-serpent". The worship of a feathered serpent deity is first documented in Teotihuacan in the Late Preclassic through the Early Classic period of Mesoamerican chronology - "Teotihuacan... was being refashioned as the Apostle Thomas. However, not all native reaction was docile. There was strong resistance early on in Tlaxcala

### **Tlaxcala**

Tlaxcala is one of the 31 states of the Mexican Republic. It is located east of the center of the country, bordering the states of Puebla, Hidalgo and Mexico State. It is the smallest state of the republic, accounting for only 0.2% of the country's territory. The state of Tlaxcala is named after.... The Oaxaca

### **Oaxaca**

The Free and Sovereign State of Oaxaca is one of the 31 states of Mexico, located in the southern part of the country, bordering the states of Guerrero to the west, Puebla to the northwest, Veracruz to the



north, Chiapas to the east, and the Pacific Ocean in the south... sierra violently resisted until the late 1550s as well as the Otomi

### **Otomi**

Otomi may refer to:\*Otomi people, an indigenous people of Mexico\*Otomi language, the language of the Otomi people\*Otomi , an Aztec military order... and peoples in parts of Michoacan

### **Michoacán**

Michoacán is located in the center west of Mexico, stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the central highlands of the country. Its capital is Morelia... state as late as the 1580s.

## **Arrival of Inquisition**

At the time of the discovery and conquest of the New World, Cardinal Cardinal (Catholicism)

A cardinal is a senior ecclesiastical official, usually a bishop, of the Catholic Church. They are collectively known as the College of Cardinals, which as a body elects a new pope. The duties of the cardinals include attending the meetings of the College and making themselves available... Adrian de Utrecht was the Inquisitor General of Spain

### **Spain**

Spain , officially the Kingdom of Spain , is a country and member state of the European Union located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula.The Spanish constitution does not establish any official denomination of the country, even though España , Estado español and Nación.... He appointed Pedro de Cordoba as Inquisitor for the West Indies in 1520. He also had inquisitorial powers in Mexico after the conquest but did not have the official title. When Juan de Zumarraga

### **Juan de Zumárraga**

Juan de Zumárraga was a Spanish Basque Franciscan prelate and first bishop of Mexico.Zumárraga was born in Durango in the Biscay province in Spain. He entered the Franciscan Order, and in 1527 was custodian of the convent of Abrojo, where he received Charles V... became the first Bishop

### **Bishop**

A bishop is an ordained or consecrated member of the Christian clergy who is generally entrusted with a position of authority and oversight. Within the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox

Churches, in the Assyrian Church of the East, in the Independent Catholic Churches, and in the... of Mexico in 1535, he also had these duties. One of Zumarraga's first act as inquisitor was the prosecution of an Aztec lord who took the name of Carlos upon baptism. He was likely a nephew of Nezahualcoyotl

### **Nezahualcoyotl**

Nezahualcoyotl was a philosopher, warrior, architect, poet and ruler of the city-state of Texcoco in pre-Columbian Mexico.... Zumarraga accused this lord of reverting back to worship of the old gods and had him burned at the stake on 30 November 1539. However, this persecution was not considered prudent by either the Spanish secular or religious authorities and Zumarraga himself was reprimanded for it. For a number of reasons persecution of the Indians for religious offenses was not actively pursued. First of all, since many native practices had parallels in Christianity, and since this "paganism" was neither the Judaic or Islamic faiths that Spanish Christians had fought so zealously against, ecclesiastical authorities opted instead to push native practices in Christian directions. Also, many of the monks sent to evangelize the native peoples became protectors of them from the extremely cruel treatment at the hands of secular authorities. This would contrast sharply with treatment of European heretics later in the colonial period. However, as a practical matter it was probably not prudent to pursue such rigid enforcement in an environment where native peoples vastly outnumbered the European conquerors, who also needed to rule through indigenous intermediaries.

This is part of the reason why the Inquisition was not formally established in New Spain until 1571. However, this is not to say that Inquisition-like tactics were never used after the Aztec lord Carlos' execution. Antagonism with the Spanish led to the Maya

### **Maya civilization**

The Maya is a Mesoamerican civilization, noted for the only known fully developed written language of the pre-Columbian Americas, as well as its art, architecture, and mathematical and astronomical systems. Initially established during the Pre-Classic period The Maya is a Mesoamerican civilization,... resistance in the Yucatan

### **Yucatán**

Yucatán is one of the 31 states of Mexico, located on the north of the Yucatán Peninsula. The Congress of Yucatan was installed on August 20, 1823; and was admitted to the Mexican federation on 21 December 1823, being the 8th state admitted... in 1546-1547. The failure of this movement prompted more aggressive evangelization, with the Franciscans finding out that despite their efforts much of traditional beliefs and practice survived. They, under the leadership of Fray Diego de Landa

### **Diego de Landa**

Diego de Landa Calderón was a Spanish Bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Yucatán. He left future generations with a mixed legacy in his writings, which contain much valuable information on pre-Columbian Maya civilization, and his actions which destroyed much of that civilization's..., decided to make an example of those they considered back-sliders without regard to proper legal formalities. Large numbers of people were subjected to torture and as many of the Maya sacred books

### **Maya codices**

Maya codices are folding books stemming from the pre-Columbian Maya civilization, written in Maya hieroglyphic script on Mesoamerican bark cloth, made from the inner bark of certain trees, the main being the wild fig tree or Amate . Paper, generally known by the Nahuatl word amatl, was named by... as could be found were burned.

### **Colonial period Inquisition**

When Holy Office of the Inquisition had been established in New Spain in 1571, it exercised no jurisdiction over Indians, except for material printed in indigenous languages. Its first official Inquisitor was Pedro Moya de Contreras

### **Pedro Moya de Contreras**

Pedro Moya de Contreras , prelate and colonial administrator who held the three highest offices in the Spanish colony of New Spain, namely inquisitor general, Archbishop of Mexico, and viceroy..., who established the “**Tribunal de la Fe**” (Tribunal of the Faith) in Mexico City. By this, he transferred the principles of the Inquisition set by Tomas Torquemada in Spain. However, the full force of the Inquisition would be felt on non-Indian populations, such as the “Negro,” “mulatto” and even certain segments of the European. Historian Luis Gonzalez Obregon estimates that 51 death sentences were carried out in the 235–242 years that the tribunal was officially in operation. However, records from this time are very poor and accurate numbers cannot be verified.

### **One group that suffered during this time were the so-called “crypto-Jews**

#### **Crypto-Judaism**

Crypto-Judaism is the secret adherence to Judaism while publicly professing to be of another faith; practitioners are referred to as "crypto-Jews"...” of Portuguese

#### **Portugal**

Portugal , officially the Portuguese Republic , is a country located in southwestern Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. Portugal is the westernmost country of Europe and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and south and by Spain to the north and east.. descent. Jews who refused to convert to Christianity had been expelled from Spain in 1492 and from Portugal in 1537. When Spain and Portugal united

shortly thereafter, many converted Portuguese Jews came to New Spain looking for commercial opportunities. In 1642, 150 of these individuals were arrested within three or four days, and the Inquisition began a series of trials. These people were accused of being 'judaisers,' meaning they still held Judaic beliefs. Many of these were merchants involved in New Spain's principal activities. On 11 April 1649, the viceregal state staged the largest ever auto da fe

### **Auto Da Fe**

Auto Da Fe were an Irish new wave musical group formed in Holland in 1980 by former Steeleye Span singer Gay Woods and Trevor Knight. The band's sound incorporated keyboards and electronics. Woods stated "It was the happiest musical time I ever had so far. I learned so much. I was ridding myself... in New Spain, in which twelve of the accused were burned after being strangled and one person was burned alive. Most of the remainder were 'reconciled' and deported to Spain.

The best known case of this type was that of Luis de Carvajal. Born Jewish in Spain in the 16th century, he was a sincere convert to Christianity. However, he was married to a woman who would not give up her Hebraic faith even though he tried to convert her. Finally, when she decided to stay behind as he went to the West Indies to trade wine, he moved on to New Spain. There he became a businessman but was more noted as a soldier. He fought for the Spanish against the Indians in Xalapa

### **Xalapa**

Xalapa-Enríquez, commonly Xalapa or Jalapa, is the capital city of the Mexican state of Veracruz and the name of the surrounding municipality. In the year 2005 census the city reported a population of 387,879 and the municipality of which it serves as municipal seat reported a population of... and the Huasteca areas. Having made something of a name for himself, he brought a number of his family over from Spain to live there. His economic and political fortunes gradually reversed themselves as businesses failed and it was rumored that the family were secretly practicing Judaic rites. He was brought before the Inquisition and had 22 chapters of charges read against him but the main charge was reverting back to the Judaic faith. Under torture he not only confessed to abandoning the faith, but denounced associates and even members of his own family. On 8 January 1596, he was executed in the Zocalo

### **Zócalo**

The Zócalo is the main plaza or square in the heart of the historic center of Mexico City. The plaza used to be known simply as the "Main Square" or "Arms Square," and today its formal name is Plaza de la Constitución... along with his mother and three sisters.

After a series of denunciations, authorities arrested 123 people in 1658 on suspicion of homosexuality

### **Homosexuality**

Homosexuality is romantic and/or sexual attraction or behavior among members of the same sex or gender. As a sexual orientation, homosexuality refers to "an enduring pattern of or disposition to

experience sexual, affectional, or romantic attractions primarily or only to" people of the same sex;... Although 99 of these managed to disappear, the Royal Criminal Court sentenced fourteen men from different social and ethnic backgrounds to death by public burning, in accordance to the law passed by Isabella the Catholic in 1497. The sentences were carried out together on one day, 6 November 1658. The records of these trials and those that occurred in 1660, 1673 and 1687, suggest that Mexico City, like many other large cities at the time had an active underworld.

The last group that had to be careful during this time was scholars. Early attempts to reform the educational curriculum to keep pace with contemporary European influences were exterminated during the 1640s and 1650s by the Inquisition. The central target was Fray Diego Rodriguez

### **Diego Rodríguez**

Diego Rodríguez was a mathematician, astronomer, educator, and technological innovator in New Spain. He was one of the most important figures in the scientific field in the colony in the second half of the seventeenth century....

(1569–1668), who took the First Chair in Mathematics and Astronomy at the Royal and Pontifical University in 1637, and tried to introduce the scientific ideas of Galileo and Kepler to the New World. For thirty years, he argued the removal of theology

### **Theology**

Theology is the study of a god or, more generally, the study of religious faith, practice, and experience, or of spirituality.-Definition:Augustine of Hippo defined the Latin equivalent, theologia, as "reasoning or discussion concerning the Deity", Richard Hooker defined "theology" in English as... and metaphysics

### **Metaphysics**

Metaphysics is a branch of philosophy concerned with explaining the fundamental nature of being and the world although it is not easily defined... from the study of science. He was the leader of a small circle of academics that met semi-clandestinely in private homes to discuss new scientific ideas. Political struggles of the 1640s, however, brought the suspicions of the Inquisition down upon them and a series of investigations and trials followed into the middle of the 1650s. When academics worked to hide books banned by the Holy Office's edit in 1647, the Inquisition required all six booksellers in the city to subject their lists to scrutiny under the threat of fine and excommunication

## Excommunication

Excommunication is a religious censure used to deprive or suspend membership in a religious community. The word means putting [someone] out of communion. In some religions, excommunication includes spiritual condemnation of the member or group...

Those sentenced under the Inquisition usually had these punishments carried out in a ceremony called the "auto de fe

## Auto de fe

An auto de fé was the ritual of public penance of condemned heretics and apostates that took place when the Spanish Inquisition or the Portuguese Inquisition had decided their punishment after the trial. The phrase is used most frequently in English in its alternative Portuguese form auto-da-fé...," almost all of which were carried out in Mexico City. For such, all notables and most of the populace would turn out in their finest garb. The Church set up a stage with pulpits, rich furnishings for the noble guests, tapestries, fine cloth draped for decoration and to serve as a canopy over the stage. No expense was spared in order to show the power and the authority of the ecclesiastical authorities in this matter. In addition, all nobles from the viceroy himself, his court, and all others in position of authority would be conspicuously in appearance. The ceremony began with a sermon and a long declaration of what constituted the true faith. The assembly was required to swear to this. The condemned were led onto the stage dressed capes with marks showing their crime and their punishment. They also wore a kind of dunce cap

## Dunce cap

A dunce cap, also variously known as a dunce hat, dunce's cap, or dunce's hat, is a pointy hat. In popular culture, it is typically made of paper and often marked with a D or the word "dunce", and given to schoolchildren to wear as punishment by public humiliation for misbehaviour and, as the name.... They were given a chance to repent, in many cases, to modify their sentences, such as strangulation instead of burning alive at the stake. Then sentences were carried out.

***The Inquisition remained officially in force until the early 19th century. It was first abolished by decree in 1812. However, political tensions and chaos led to something of its return between 1813 and 1820. It was abolished for good in 1820.***