

Name _____

The Spanish Inquisition: A Dark Chapter in History

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Ferdinand and Isabella played a central role in the establishment and support of the Spanish Inquisition. They sought religious unity and believed that the Inquisition would help root out heresy. Their support of the Inquisition strengthened the authority of the tribunal and had a lasting impact on Spain's religious landscape.
2. The Spanish Inquisition had long-term consequences on Spain, including a decline in cultural diversity, religious intolerance, and the expulsion of significant portions of the population. These consequences continued to shape Spain's social fabric for centuries, even after the Inquisition's formal dissolution.
3. As a converso in 15th-century Spain, one would face challenges such as suspicion, scrutiny, and the constant fear of being accused of secretly practicing Judaism. The dilemma would involve navigating between one's true beliefs and the need to conform to avoid persecution.
4. The history of the Spanish Inquisition serves as a stark reminder of the dangers of religious intolerance and the violation of human rights. It underscores the importance of religious freedom, tolerance, and the protection of individual liberties in a diverse society.

