

Medical Conceptions of Race

in the Iberian World, 1710-1800

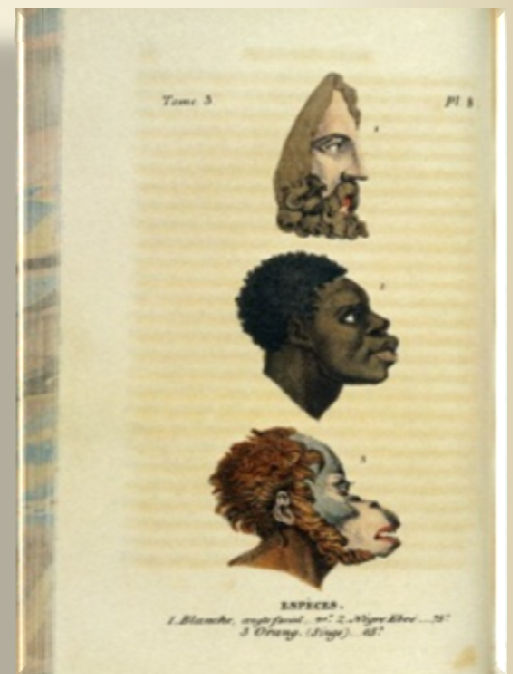


central idea

The syncretic, Humoral and Religious conception of the body, Race and 'Castas' changed 1700 onwards

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to resemble modern, Scientific and Enlightenment inspired conceptions towards 1800.

central foci

In the time between 1700 and 1800, Medicine in Spain shifted its base from Classical Humoralism to a Scientific understanding of the body, including the understanding of Race. Spanish medical texts, available in the National Library of Spain (Madrid), map out said shift and permit examination of:

the epistemic shift of Medicine into the Enlightenment in the Iberian World,
the relationships Medicine-Religion and Medicine-Science,

Spanish elite Medical thought and reasoning,
contemporary collective cognition of Race in psychoanalytic terms,
and the dynamics of racial understanding and Colonial rule.

The latter point is vast and can be expanded on at PhD level with research into Medicine, Colonial Policy and its ties to Racial Theory using sources in the Archivo de Indias (Seville).