

**Mosaic 852**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Dr. Pratt**

### **Las Casas exercise**

The goals for this assignment are:

- to work collaboratively
- to work closely with a challenging text
- to practice to your critical thinking skills

Assemble in your assigned groups. Introduce yourselves. ["Hello. How are the wife and kids?"] Be sure everyone has a copy of the Hurley translation of Las Casas (LC). Take notes and be sure to record your work on one document for each group, even if the solutions are multiple, incomplete or sketchy. I'll be collecting one document from each group.

Everyone should have selected passages from today's reading to examine and discuss. Review the selections of each group member and then choose one passage to complete the following critical work. Be sure to select a passage that provokes your collective questioning and invites your collective analysis.

Identify where the passage appears in LC's text by chapter and page number:

Identify the geographical location:

What atrocity is documented? How would it be classified?

Does LC quantify the atrocity? If so, how?

Who is the source of the testimony?

What do you think LC's purpose is in documenting this passage? Think hard. The answers are multiple.

What reaction would you expect from a literate Spaniard reading this in the 16<sup>th</sup> century? Explain.

[Hint: You can also use your work on this exercise as a guide for this week's blog posting.]