The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision Henry Kamen

...few years ago, you may have read a book about the Spanish Inquisition, a notorious period in European history. At that time, you may have heard stories about the Inquisition's role in promoting intolerance and suppressing heresy. Now, the Spanish Inquisition is often depicted as a brutal and undeservedly vengeful institution that terrorized millions of people.

This is not the case, however. The Spanish Inquisition was not a wholesale, extra-judicial slaughter of millions of people, rather it was a travelling court of law that operated under the supervision of the Catholic Church. It was established to combat heresy and protect the faith of the faithful.

The Inquisition, in historical ecclesiastical parlance also referred to as the "Holy Inquisition", was a group of courts established by the Catholic Church to combat heresy in Spain. In fact, the Inquisition was not unique to Spain. It existed in other parts of Europe as well, including in the Netherlands and parts of Italy.

The historical revision of the Inquisition is a historiographical process that started to emerge in the 1970s, with the publication of The Spanish Inquisition: A Historical Revision by Henry Kamen. This book, along with others by scholars like John Garver, has helped to shed light on the true nature of the Inquisition and challenged the stereotype of it as a brutal and undeservedly vengeful institution.

The principal conclusion of the first edition (The Spanish Inquisition) was that the Inquisition was a weapon of social control, that it was used to terrorize the Jewish and Muslim communities in Spain. In fact, the Inquisition was used to control the population, to suppress dissent, and to maintain the power of the Catholic Church.

The Inquisition had a profound impact on Spanish society, and its legacy is still felt today. The Inquisition's influence can be seen in the way that many Spaniards today are still sensitive to issues of religion and politics. The Inquisition also had a profound impact on the development of the Catholic Church in Spain, and it helped to create a strong connection between the Church and the state.

The Spanish Inquisition was a complex institution, and its impact on Spanish society was both positive and negative. However, the historical revision of the Inquisition has helped to shed light on the true nature of this institution, and to challenge the stereotype of it as a brutal and undeservedly vengeful institution.