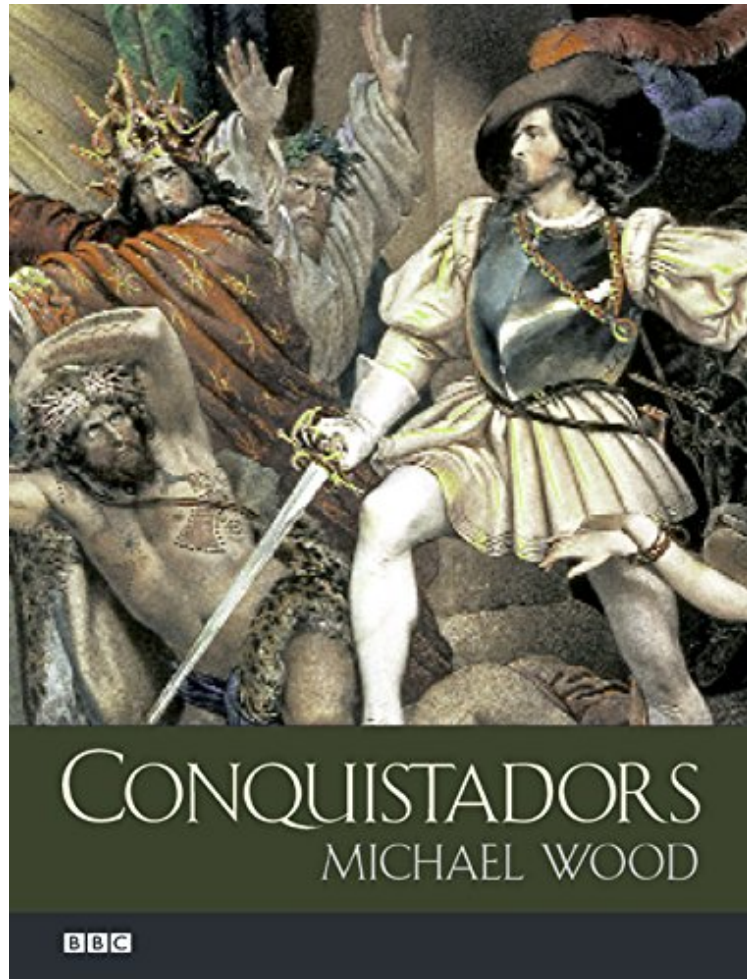


(Free) Conquistadors

## Conquistadors

*Michl Wood, Michael Wood*  
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**Michl Wood, Michael Wood : Conquistadors** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Conquistadors:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Overall it was a good DVD with Michael wood retracing the steps taken by ...By GJRNot detailed as i was expecting. Overall it was a good DVD with Michael wood retracing the steps taken by the Cortez and Pizzario.Prompt and efficient service.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book on a dark periodBy XmanThis book is a great treatise on a few of the best known conquistadors. Giving a great wealth of information but concisely, without all that extra baggage of needless minute details that bog down a good biography. VERY well written.Do not be fooled by the narrow-mindedness of the few that badmouthed this great book. Wood treats the subject of the Spaniard's incredible cruelty towards the natives in total objectivity, in fact it should have gone into more detail of the inhumane barbarism perpetrated by the Conquistadores in this sad period of

history, read Las Casas and you'll understand. It was pure genocide with unbelievable torture and suffering. But the book also covers Cabeza de Vaca, the only conquistador that was truly a Christian, and realized the Indians were human beings and deserved humane and equal treatment... so much so that he, later on, actually put his own life in jeopardy in their protection from other conquistadors. I'm of direct Spanish descent, so I have no axe-to-grind here, just straight-forward honesty about a very dark period in history of some very brave, but evil men. I've read MUCH on the subject, and loved this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Conquistadors reality show By Robert Crittendon This was a well written and very informative book. It covers the travels of four of the most prominent adventurers of the 16th century-- Cortes, Pizarro, Orellano and Cabeza de Vaca-- conquistadors whose exploits would be almost incredible, if not backed and fully documented in the history of the Americas. The book is well illustrated and is certainly not in the typical genre of a history text. As a matter of fact, it incorporates a sense of travelogue and unusual feeling of reality, because author Michael Wood actually retraces the steps of the gentlemen he writes about. The scenes are vividly described (and often illustrated) as Wood makes many discoveries himself. The book was later created as a PBS video.

Following in the footsteps of the greatest Spanish adventurers, Michael Wood retraces the path of the conquistadors from Amazonia to Lake Titicaca, and from the deserts of North Mexico to the heights of Machu Picchu. As he travels the same routes as Hernn Cortes, and Francisco and Gonzalo Pizarro, Wood describes the dramatic events that accompanied the epic sixteenth-century Spanish conquest of the Aztec and Inca empires. He also follows parts of Orellana's extraordinary voyage of discovery down the Amazon and of Cabeza de Vaca's arduous journey across America to the Pacific. Few stories in history match these conquests for sheer drama, endurance, and distances covered, and Wood's gripping narrative brings them fully to life. Wood reconstructs both sides of the conquest, drawing from sources such as Bernal Diaz's eyewitness account, Cortes's own letters, and the Aztec texts recorded not long after the fall of Mexico. Wood's evocative story of his own journey makes a compelling connection with the sixteenth-century world as he relates the present-day customs, rituals, and oral traditions of the people he meets. He offers powerful descriptions of the rivers, mountains, and ruins he encounters on his trip, comparing what he has seen and experienced with the historical record. A wealth of stunning photographs support the text, drawing the reader closer to the land and its people. As well as being one of the pivotal events in history, the Spanish conquest of the Americas was one of the most cruel and devastating. Wood grapples with the moral legacy of the European invasion and with the implications of an episode in history that swept away civilizations, religions, and ways of life. The stories in Conquistadors are not only of conquest, heroism, and greed, but of changes in the way we see the world, history and civilization, justice and human rights.

.com First the Trojan War, then the eras of Alexander the Great and King Arthur. Now, in this companion volume to the BBC/PBS television series, the indefatigable writer-filmmaker Michael Wood turns his lens and pen on the restless, sometimes homicidal men who established Spain's empire in the Americas. "The conquest opened up the world," Wood writes, "marking the beginnings of a globalization which was not only commercial, but also ideological and philosophical, a remaking of mental horizons no less than a redrawing of physical geography." Grand themes all, but Wood is less interested in sweeping statements than in exploring the particular circumstances surrounding the careers of Spain's freebooter-warriors. Following in their footsteps, Wood takes his readers first to the dusty, bleak Spanish province of Estremadura, which gave rise to a remarkable generation of conquerors, hungry for land and wealth and well schooled in the arts of war. One of those men, Hernn Cortes, was also schooled in law--or so his contemporaries thought--and he was able to turn a talent for fighting and learned disputation into a great personal fortune made first in Cuba, then in Mexico, which he won not so much with weaponry but with great cunning. Another, Francisco Pizarro--a distant cousin of Cortes--recruited a semiprivate army to capture the great Inca empire, relying on force more than guile. Wood also follows the paths of Alvar Nuez Cabeza de Vaca and Francisco Orellana, accidental wanderers who helped open the interiors of North and South America to conquest. His latter-day, low-tech journeys underscore the difficulties the conquistadors faced in their time, and they help readers appreciate the sheer scale of their often bloody achievements. The story of the conquest, Wood writes, "never wearies in the retelling," and he proves it in this accessible, literate, and lively book. --Gregory McNamee From Publishers Weekly In Conquistadors, journalist and filmmaker Michael Wood (In Search of the Trojan War) travels the routes of the Spanish explorers and conquerors (and often by the same means, including a homemade balsa raft on Coca River rapids) the length and breadth of South and Central America and some of North America as well. With photos, maps and illustrations adorning nearly every page, the book examines records of the conquests both by the invaders and the native peoples. A 1613 letter from Peruvian historian Waman Poma to the king of Spain appealing for humane treatment of Indians, Gonzalo Pizarro's catalogue of the infamous El Dorado misadventures, Cabeza de Vaca's account of crossing North America and Geronimo de Aguilar's diary of the Night of Tears (when Aztecs fought back and killed 600 Spaniards) are among the numerous firsthand accounts Wood presents. (Univ. of California, \$27.50 288p ISBN 0-520-23064-7) Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Renowned for his popular works on a series of

historical subjects, documentarian Wood turns his attention to the Spanish conquest of the Americas. Retracing the legendary paths of the sixteenth-century conquistadors, he juxtaposes his contemporary journey with the travels and adventures of Cortes, Pizarro, Orellana, and de Vaca. In addition to outlining the destruction of both the Aztec and the Incan empires, he examines the moral, cultural, and spiritual consequences of the European invasion. Accompanied by a series of striking color photographs, the digestible narrative provides a provocative overview of a historical episode that was both magnificent and shameful. Sure to be in demand when PBS airs a four-part companion series. Margaret Flanagan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved