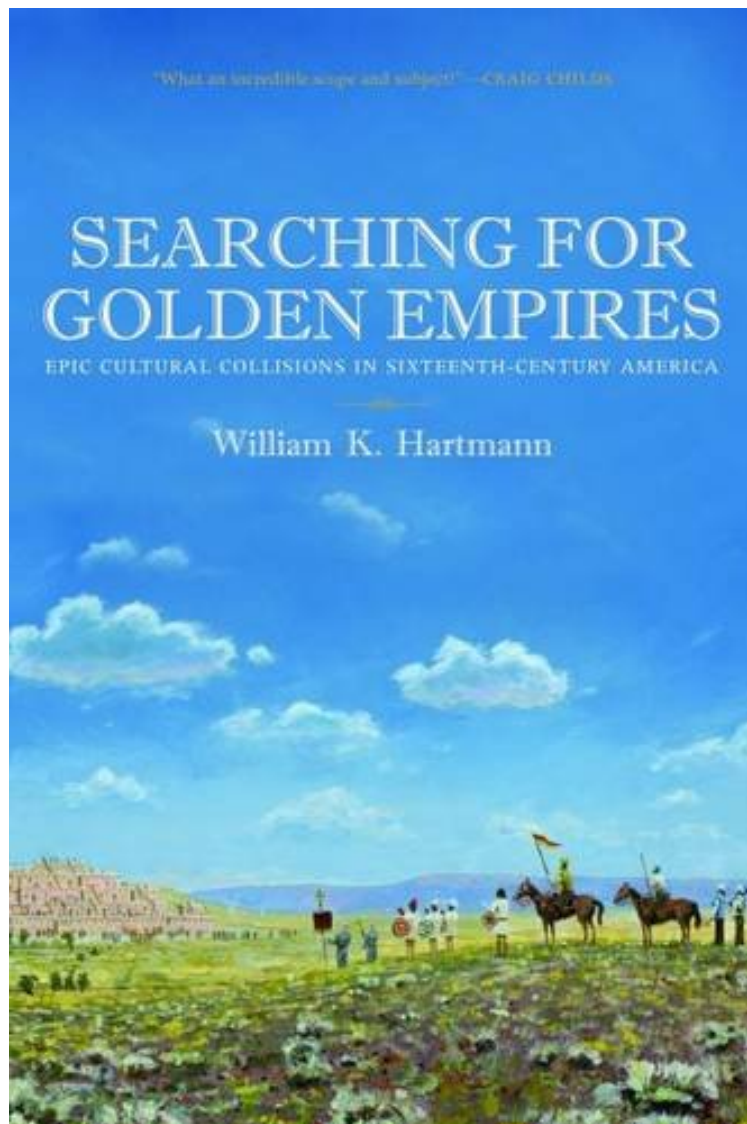


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## Searching for Golden Empires: Epic Cultural Collisions in Sixteenth-Century America

*William K. Hartmann*

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**William K. Hartmann : Searching for Golden Empires: Epic Cultural Collisions in Sixteenth-Century America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Searching for Golden Empires: Epic Cultural Collisions in Sixteenth-Century America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Searching for a Great Book on Coronado? Look No Further By Ron

This book is well written, scholarly, accurate and easy to read. It provides a clear, concise summary of the latest research and reasoning about the Coronado Expedition. It places Coronado into the context of Spanish exploration and expansion of the New World. Its examination of Cortes' conquest of Mexico as the direct precursor to Coronado is tremendously useful. I used this book as a general text from which I could branch out into related topics. The presence of citations to other works was very useful to me. There are perhaps other books on Coronado which have come out recently that are more authoritative than this, but their intended audience is other academics. This is by far the best book on this topic for the general reader. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By AZterritory Well researched and ties the most current primary source work together. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very thorough treatment of the personalities and stories behind the ... By April Faires Very thorough treatment of the personalities and stories behind the Spanish conquest and exploration of Mexico and especially the Southwest. very well document and highly readable.

This lively book recounts the explorations of the first generations of Spanish conquistadors and their Native allies. Author William K. Hartmann brings readers along as the explorers probe from Cuba to the Aztec capital of Mexico City, and then northward through the borderlands to New Mexico, the Grand Canyon, southern California, and as far as Kansas. Characters include Hernan Cortes, the conqueror; the Aztec ruler Motezuma; Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, a famous expedition leader; fray Marcos de Niza, an explorer-priest doomed to disgrace; and Viceroy Antonio Mendoza, the king's representative who tried to keep the explorers under control. Recounting eyewitness experiences that the Spaniards recorded in letters and memoirs, Hartmann describes ancient lifeways from Mexico to the western United States; Aztec accounts of the conquest; discussions between Aztec priests and Spanish priests about the nature of the universe; Cortes' lifelong relationship with his famous Native mistress, Malinche (not to mention the mysterious fate of his wife); lost explorers who wandered from Florida to Arizona; and Marcos de Niza's controversial reports of the Seven Cities of Cibola. *Searching for Golden Empires* describes how, even after the conquest of Mexico, Cortes remained a wildcat competitor with Coronado in a race to see who could find the next golden empire, believed to lie in the north. It is an exciting history of the shared story of the United States and Mexico, unveiling episodes both tragic and uplifting.

This remarkable new study fleshes out both explorers and natives, revealing nearly forgotten fluctuations of power and persuasion. Detailed archaeological evidence and meticulous scholarly investigations make this book especially valuable in academia, but Hartmann's joyful Indiana Jonesesque attitude will both educate general readers and keep them rapt. Publishers Weekly "What an incredible scope and subject!" Craig Childs, Orion Book Award-winning author of *Apocalyptic Planet* and *The Secret Knowledge of Water* This book is a must-read for archaeologists, ethnohistorians, historians, and those interested in the skullduggery and the stories behind the stories of the opening years of the Spanish exploration of North America. Russell K. Skowronek, co-editor of *Beneath the Ivory Tower: The Archaeology of Academia*