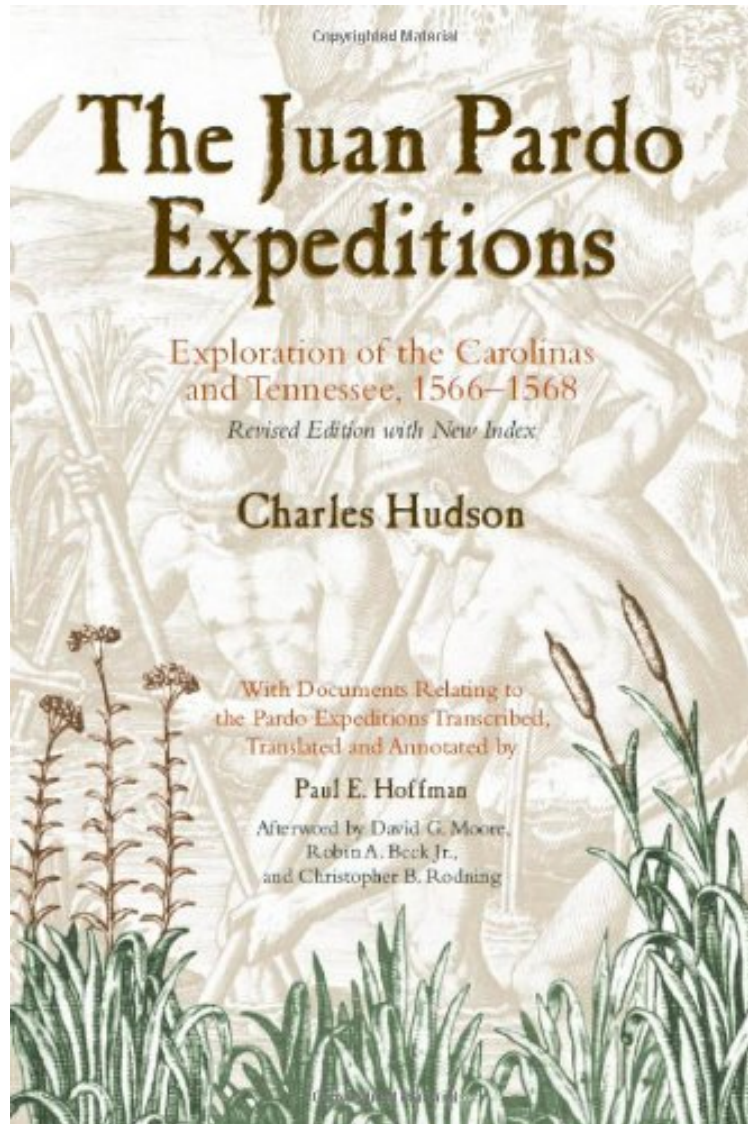


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The Juan Pardo Expeditions: Exploration of the Carolinas and Tennessee, 1566-1568 (Classics in Southeastern Archaeology)

Charles Hudson

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Charles Hudson is perhaps the best scholar to read about the interaction of Indians and Spanish in the American Southeast during the 16th century. His book about De Soto's route is definitive. This book concerns the nearly-forgotten expeditions of Juan Pardo through the Carolinas and across the Appalachians to Tennessee in 1566,67,and 68. Included in the book are the official accounts in Spanish of Pardo's expeditions plus English translations.
Pardo visited several of the same Indian cities as De Soto had thirty years earlier and thus we have two sources regarding such places as Cofitachequi, Joara, and Coosa. When De Soto reached Cofitachequi -- few miles east of present-day Columbia, SC, it was already in decline, having suffered from a plague -- almost certainly of European origin. By Pardo's time, the powerful Chiefdom was on its last legs. Within a few years, the complex societies seen by the early Spanish would cease to exist to be replaced by the much depopulated and simpler societies of the historic Creek, Cherokee, Catawba and other Indian tribes.
Hudson pieces together linguistic and archaeological data as well as nuggets from the tiresome accounts of the expedition by Pardo's legalistic notary to portray the Indians Pardo met. One interesting feature of Pardo's expeditions compared with De Soto's is that Pardo had few battles or adventures, got along well with most of the Indians he met, and none of his men were killed or died.
There is little information about the Indians of the Southeast at the time of first contacts with the invading Europeans. Pardo's is one of the most useful and least fanciful accounts that we have and Hudson's interpretation of it is almost surely the best that can be found.
Smallchief

An early Spanish explorers account of American Indians.

"This work will be especially welcomed by those seeking connections between archaeological 'phases' with unlikely names and historic Indian tribes of the Southeast. This is a bold interpretation based upon several rather thin lines of evidence. Its strength lies in the confidence one can place in Hoffman's translations and in the solid reputation Hudson has built reinterpreting the Southeast before as well as after Pardo's time."