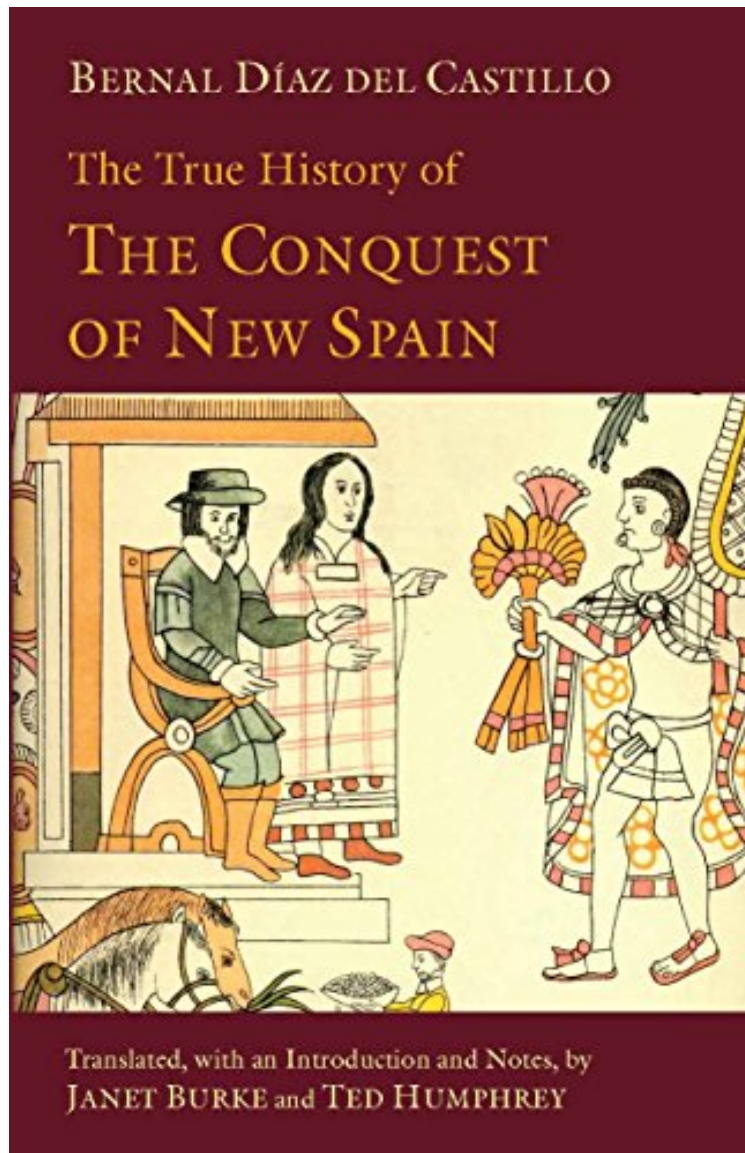


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The True History of The Conquest of New Spain (Hackett Classics)

Bernal Diaz del Castillo

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Bernal Diaz del Castillo : The True History of The Conquest of New Spain (Hackett Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The True History of The Conquest of New Spain (Hackett Classics):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He freely admits he is not a great writer but is merely trying to tell the story ...By ThanAn incredible story which was almost never written. The author is writing it in response to another

book of his time which he continually points out is riddled with falsehoods. Bernal is trying to set the record straight with his account. He freely admits he is not a great writer but is merely trying to tell the story as best he remembers it. The only thing that got confusing was all of the Spanish names and Aztec place names which sort of run together if you try to remember them. Focus more on the main characters and main places when reading it. Though the writer likes Cortes he's not afraid to point out his flaws in many spots. He tries to present the history with all its blemishes as thoroughly as he can remember them. Sometimes he omits specific events or people to not tarnish their image but indicates something happened in some context to change their direction during the conquest. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Abridged version By Chris C. I would have put 5 stars but it was abridged, which I do not like and did not notice before I ordered. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Fascinating Story By Russ Lewis As the title says, this is the true history of the conquest of New Spain. Fascinating stuff. I first read it about fifty years ago. It was a great read then, and it was a great re-read.

This rugged new translation--the first entirely new English translation in half a century and the only one based on the most recent critical edition of the Guatemalan MS--allows Diaz to recount, in his own battle-weary and often cynical voice, the achievements, stratagems, and frequent cruelty of Hernando Cortes and his men as they set out to overthrow Moctezuma's Aztec kingdom and establish a Spanish empire in the New World. The concise contextual introduction to this volume traces the origins, history, and methods of the Spanish enterprise in the Americas; it also discusses the nature of the conflict between the Spanish and the Aztecs in Mexico, and compares Diaz's version of events to those of other contemporary chroniclers. Editorial glosses summarize omitted portions, and substantial footnotes explain those terms, names, and cultural references in Diaz's text that may be unfamiliar to modern readers. A chronology of the Conquest is included, as are a guide to major figures, a select bibliography, and three maps.

Bernal Diaz's True History of the Conquest of New Spain, the chronicle of an 'ordinary' soldier in Hernando Cortes's army, is the only complete account (other than Cortes's own) that we have of the Spanish conquest of ancient Mexico. Although it is neither so 'true' nor so unassumingly direct as its author would have us believe, it is unmistakably the voice of the often unruly, undisciplined body of untrained freebooters who, in less than three years, succeeded against all apparent odds, in bringing down the once mighty Aztec Empire. It makes for consistently fascinating reading, and Ted Humphrey and Janet Burke have provided the best, and the most engaging, translation ever to have appeared in English. --Anthony Pagden, UCLA