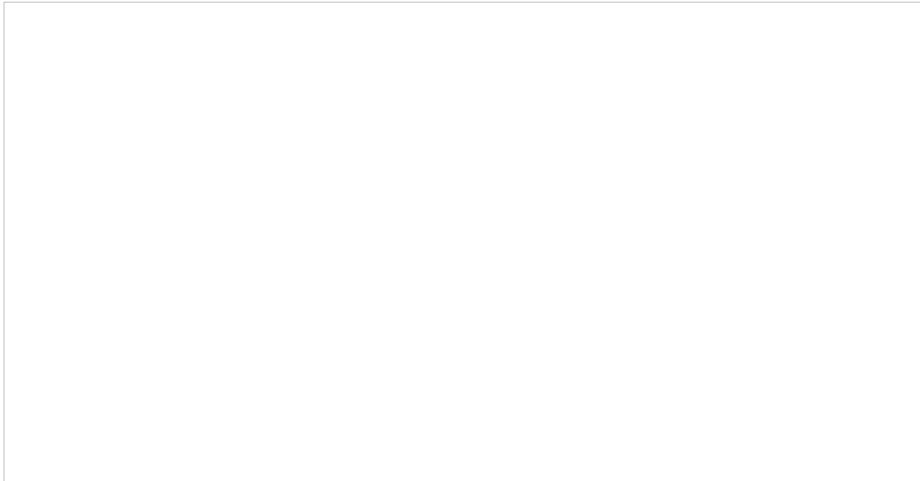


[PDF] Conquest: Montezuma, Cortes, And The Fall Of Old Mexico

Hugh Thomas - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Conquest: Montezuma, Cortes, And The Fall Of Old Mexico
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Description:

From Publishers Weekly British historian Thomas's epic, spellbinding narrative history of conquistador Hernan Cortes's destruction of Montezuma's Aztec empire is a stunning meditation on Christian Spain's cataclysmic encounter with native American civilization. Thomas (*The Spanish Civil War*) plunges us into the cultural milieu of the Aztecs' militarized, collectivist, rigidly stratified society, one free of beggars or crime, but where human sacrifice was a sacred rite. He portrays Aztec emperor Montezuma as a tragic figure, an inflexible, fatalistic man who, in 1519, became Cortes's hostage, agreeing "to stay with the Castilians until the truth were known" about the killing of one of Cortes's lieutenants. Under the influence of his captors, Montezuma lost power and the respect of his people, who ultimately stoned him at a public appearance in

1520. Montezuma, we are told, was mesmerized by Cortes to the end, developing a "kind of affection . . . which victims of kidnappings often have for their captors." Although not above murder, torture and massacres, Cortes considered himself a devout Christian and believed he was performing a service by offering the Aztecs a new spiritual world. Illustrations not seen by PW .
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From Library Journal Digging into thousands of pages of legal testimony given in the 1520s by participants in Cortes's expedition against the Mexico of ancient Mesoamerica, Thomas revisits the Spanish invasion of the Aztec Empire. The result is a richer account of the personalities, events, and social setting of this momentous episode than currently exists in accessible form. The complex genealogical interweaving of Castilian and Mexican royal families, the intricacies of battle strategy and tactics, the labyrinthine political machinations, and the brutal imposition of external standards of behavior and belief--all are described in a gripping narrative by Thomas, a British academic. His sterling achievement is to illustrate the complex historical foundation of modern Mexico. Although the book is intended for a general audience, extensive chapter-by-chapter endnotes and an annotated bibliography of major sources reveal the depth of the author's scholarship. No library should be without this important contribution to Latin American history.

- *William S. Dancey, Ohio State Univ., Columbus*
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“Conquest: Cortes, Montezuma, and the Fall of Old Mexico” is without a doubt an extensive and well-researched book. With approximately 40% of it being pure sources, this book gives the reader a detailed account about all the events surrounding the conquest of Mexico. Yes, it was difficult to read for a couple of reasons: firstly, I’m not an English fluent speaker and that’s always going to be a little bit of a struggle when reading in this language. The emperors of Mexico dominated not only the Valley of Mexico. Beyond the volcanoes, they had, during the previous three generations, established their authority to the east as far as the Gulf of Mexico. Their sway extended far down the coast of the Pacific Ocean in the west to Xoconochco, the best source of the much-prized green feathers of the quetzal bird. There were markets in all districts: one of these, that in the city of Tlatelolco, by now a large suburb of Tenochtitlan, was the biggest market in the Americas, an emporium for the entire region. Even goods from distant Guatemala were exchanged there. Meantime, trade on a small scale in old Mexico was carried on by nearly everyone, for marketing the household’s product was the main activity of family life. Cortés was effective at recruiting many of the local tribes to help him during his march to Montezuma’s capital city, even though he treated them just as abominably as did their rulers, the Aztecs. It was almost the only help he received as few back in Spain even seemed to know or care what he was up to. The Spaniards were driven on by a lust for the gold and other abundant riches of the New World. But it was also a clash of two opposing cultures. As Thomas writes: “The Spanish had unbounded confidence in their own qualities, in the political wisdom of their imperial mission, and in the spirit...”

Conquest: Montezuma, Cortés, and the Fall of old Mexico By Hugh Thomas. Simon & Schuster, 1993. To order from Amazon Books: Paperback. Conquest: Montezuma, Cortés has been added to your Basket. Add to Basket. Buy Now. Cortes and his opponent the Aztec emperor Montezuma are central characters to the story. The final chapters discuss, in general terms, the decades following the military conquest, that saw both the subjugation of the local peoples and the nearly complete destruction of their religion (not without resistance) and many other aspects of their way of life. On the other hand, being highly civilized, they eagerly adopted technological and agricultural improvements and novelties brought by the Spanish, who, in turn, also brought to Europe American turkeys, chocolate, maize

The unparalleled history of the fall of old Mexico. Drawing on newly discovered sources and writing with brilliance, drama, and profound historical insight, Hugh Thomas presents an engrossing narrative of one of the most significant events of Western history. Ringing with the fury of two great empires locked in an epic battle, Conquest captures in extraordinary detail the Mexican and Spanish civilizations and offers unprecedented in-depth portraits of the legendary opponents, Montezuma and Cortés. Conquest is an essential work of history from one of our most gifted historians. Publisher: Simon