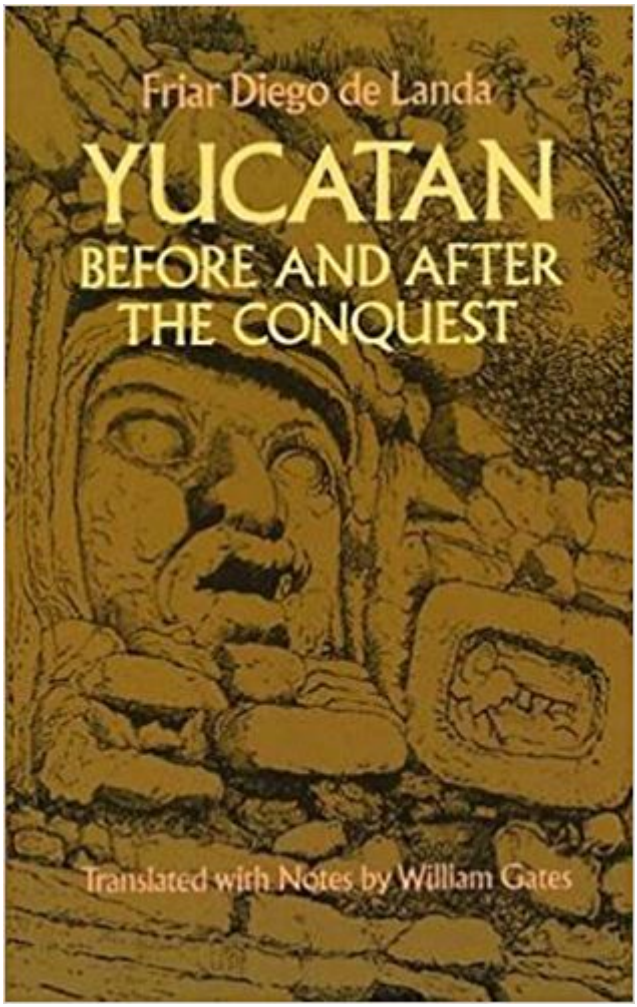
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# Yucatan Before And After The Conquest (Native American)




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## Synopsis

These people also used certain characters or letters, with which they wrote in their books about the antiquities and their sciences. We found a great number of books in these letters and since they contained nothing but superstitions and falsehoods of the devil we burned them all, which they took most grievously, and which gave them great pain.So writes Friar Diego de Landa in his RelaciÃƒÂ n De las cosas de Yucatan of 1566, the basic book in Maya studies. Landa did all he could to wipe out Maya culture and civilization. In the famous auto da fÃƒÂ© of July 1562 at ManÃƒÂ- , as he tells us, he destroyed 5,000 "idols" and burned 27 hieroglyphic rolls. And yet paradoxically Landa's book, written in Spain to defend himself against charges of despotic mismanagement, is the only significant account of Yucatan done in the early post-Conquest era. As the distinguished Maya scholar William Gates states in his introduction, "ninety-nine percent of what we today know of the Mayas, we know as the result either of what Landa has told us in the pages that follow, or have learned in the use and study of what he told." Yucatan Before and After the Conquest is the first English translation of this very important work.Landa's book gives us a full account of Maya customs, daily activities, history, ceremonial festivals, and the many social and communal functions in which their life was expressed. Included here are the geography and natural history of Yucatan, the history of the Conquest, indigenous architecture and other aspects of Maya civilization (sciences, books, religion, etc.), native historical traditions, the Inquisition instituted by the Spanish clergy, Maya clothing, food, commerce, agriculture, human sacrifices, calendrical lore, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Only significant account done of Yucatan In post-Conquest era. Describes geography and natural history of the peninsula, gives brief history of Mayan life, discusses Spanish conquest and its effects and provides a long summary of Maya civilization.

Text: English, Spanish (translation)

Friar Diego de Landa (1524-79) was a Franciscan missionary and later bishop of Yucatan. He is famous for writing his account of the Mayans and for burning Mayan books (see Section 41 of his account for the details).De Landa must have been good at his job because only 4 Maya codices have survived to the present day.This Dover edition is a reprint of an original 1937 edition so the scholarship is out of date. Since 1937 Mayan has been deciphered so de Landa's account has been verified. At one point scholars very much doubted what de Landa had to say about the Mayan calendar and writing (sections 34-41).I don't know much about Mayan history so I took a chance and bought this book. I found the account of the early Spanish contacts with the Yucatan interesting. The English is a bit archaic but that is to be expected from an older work.

I had to read this book to understand why so many persons in South and Central America despise Friar Deiego de Landa.So much (99.9% according to the translator) of the true Mayan culture was destroyed by this Friar alone in the mid 1500's. His explanation and reasons are covered in this book (from a 1937 limited edition) as they also cover some of the more important aspects of Mayan customs, history, sciences, etc.Personally, I likied this book because it shows that not much has changed in regard to the 'victors' who subvery, destroy, and rewrite the history of conquered civilizations. It is important (for me) to have all sides of an historical issue. The Spaniards entered, conquered, destroyed, and rewrote the history of an indiginous people. The 'good news' is that traveling through those ancient cities, you can find people who still share the oral traditions with modern truth seekers:-)

This a good book to use for understanding the current Yucatan culture of inherent prejudice toward the Mayan. Gave me an appreciation of the historical colonial places we visited. I actually read the back of the book first which I found fascinating with it's historical letters and documents. I was

profoundly affected by reading of the torture and suffering of the Mayan at the hands of the colonial Spaniards and Catholic clergy.

This is a truly fascinating primary source. You get to hear in Bishop Landa's own words how he described the Maya, their rituals, their religion, society and more. Also you get to read a few letters from the same time period disputing what he claimed.

Book has bad odor but otherwise condition is good.

It tell a lot about the native Americans for instance I didn't know tribe leader had full beards and long hair which make them look like a lion

A translation of the works of Frair Deigo de Landa, written during the time of the first interaction between the late Mayans and the Spaniards. Very rewarding, but difficult to follow. You need to read it slowly.

I used this book to get a little more information for traveling to this region in Mexico. It was good to give so much background, but a little dry at times as many history books can be

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