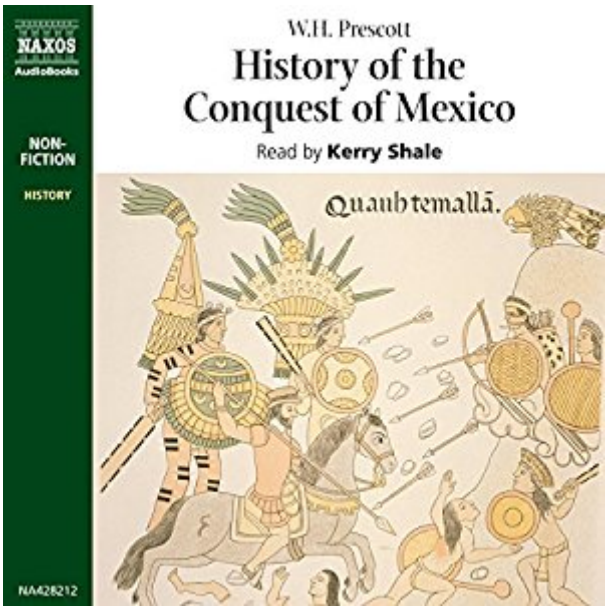
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History Of The Conquest Of Mexico



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Synopsis

Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â ="It is a magnificent epic," said William H. Prescott after the publication of History of the Conquest of Mexico in 1843. Since then, his sweeping account of CortÃƒÂ©s's subjugation of the Aztec people has endured as a landmark work of scholarship and dramatic storytelling. This pioneering study presents a compelling view of the clash of civilizations that reverberates in Latin America to this day.----"Regarded simply from the standpoint of literary criticism, the Conquest of Mexico is Prescott's masterpiece," judged his biographer Harry Thurston Peck. "More than that, it is one of the most brilliant examples which the English language possesses of literary art applied to historical narration. . . . Here, as nowhere else, has Prescott succeeded in delineating character. All the chief actors of his great historic drama not only live and breathe, but they are as distinctly differentiated as they must have been in life. CortÃƒÂ©s and his lieutenants are persons whom we actually come to know in the pages of Pres-cott. . . . Over against these brilliant figures stands the melancholy form of Montezuma, around whom, even from the first, one feels gathering the darkness of his coming fate. He reminds one of some hero of Greek tragedy, doomed to destruction and intensely conscious of it, yet striving in vain against the decree of an inexorable des-tiny. . . . [Prescott] transmuted the acquisitions of laborious research into an enduring monument of pure literature." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author, in an admittedly dated style, gives a detailed story of how Cortes came back from the

brink of defeat, over and over to finally triumph in a enormous bloodbath and conquer Mexico . I doubt if few people have any idea of what he went through... on the other hand, I doubt if many people have any idea what the Mexicans went through, which was far worse. In the book the reader roots for Cortes as he decimates a whole civilization, in the name of God.... Makes you wonder!!!Regardless, it is a detailed and fascinating story of perseverance in the face incredible odds.

Even though this book was written in 1890, it is surprisingly even handed in this struggle between the dominant culture of Central America and a small group of adventurers led by Hernando Cortes. The author obviously admires the achievements of the Aztecs, despite the 20,000 human sacrifices annually made to their gods. The conditions of the Aztec nation which made it liable to collapse and the skill of Cortes are discussed. This story would not be believed if history had not instructed us it is true.

The author, writes this historical story as though he is standing next Herman Cortes in his journey to discover and seize new lands for Spain and the Roman Catholic Church (Christianity). The author loves Cortez and the violent journey he led. It was difficult reading for me as the writer graphically imposed upon a reader the horrific destruction of the "Aztec" people's in order to impose Christianity upon them and place the cross upon their lands. This is a historical accounting our history books should present. I was sickened and still I could not put this book down. I will most likely read it again and again as I share this book with history teachers and professors of history. Now, I fully accept the data identifying the death of 100 million Indigenous peoples by the invasion of the Europeans.

I was surprised to see that the book was written in 1843, before the Mexican War. The author did not use much of the stilted language of that time and the book is easy to read. There are some words used which are now obscure, but the context is usually clear It a long book, but very complete with a lot of insight of the people involved and the times. I don't know if later research would change any of the story, but it is a good overall history.

This book goes in depth into the conquest. Happily much more than the usual overview.I do like how the indigenous populations are included. Without their help I'm quite positive Cortez wouldn't have succeeded.

Very interesting. I do not give 5 stars to it because I consider thta it has too many unnecessay and ornamental descriptions. I have read Bernal DÃƒÂ-az del Castillo which has a less ornamental language and very useful to understand that part of the conquest history. Prescott is undoubtly an objective historian showing and explaining the conquest of Mexico

The History of the Conquest of Mexico is a detailed, social, political, anthropological and virtual firsthand report and account of the conquest of Mexico. It is detailed, riveting, intellectually honest and exciting. Prescott provides a first class account that captures the tiniest bead of information and integrates it into the larger and at times international picture. Prescott is a terrific story teller, this is what the book is all about, a first class, first rate and virtual first person account of one of the most unlikely and extraordinary conquests in the history of civilization. -Bob Martin

I enjoyed this writer's style and learned some more about this remarkable period of history. Very good vacation book, I would highly recommend.

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