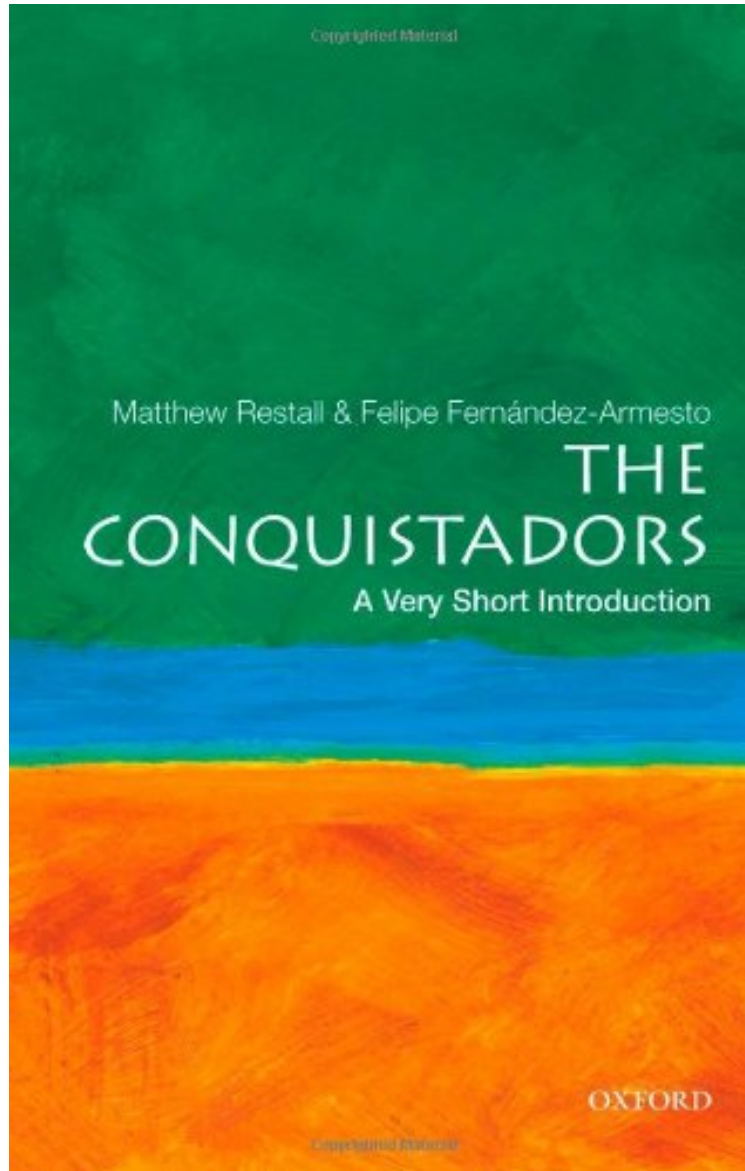


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The Conquistadors: A Very Short Introduction

Matthew Restall, Felipe Fernández-Armesto
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Matthew Restall, Felipe Fernández-Armesto : The Conquistadors: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Conquistadors: A Very Short Introduction:

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Great as a reference
By bassboy
Excellent quick reference about the conquistadors. I do not agree with all of the authors theories about the interactions between native peoples and the Spanish, but all sides need to tell it the way they see it.
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Disturbing but fascinating
By TSAI bought the kindle edition of the book, which is pretty poor, but it's hardly the authors' fault. This book is NOT a compilation of stories of conquistadores: if you want some specifics about Cortes or Ponce de Leon, choose another one. The book is roughly divided in three parts. The first one is a kind of sociology of the Conquistadors (and strangely enough Conquistadoras, Black conquistadors, Indian conquistadors...). The second one tries to explain the improbable success of the Spanish conquistadors in the America. Knowing that Spain, when the Conquista started, was far from being the most advanced civilization in Europe, which wasn't itself the most advanced in the world, by the authors' account. The conclusions of the book are sometimes disturbing but never lack a strong scientific rigour.

With startling speed, Spanish conquistadors invaded hundreds of Native American kingdoms, took over the mighty empires of the Aztecs and Incas, and initiated an unprecedented redistribution of the world's resources and balance of power. They changed the course of history, but the myth they established was even stranger than their real achievements. This Very Short Introduction deploys the latest scholarship to shatter and replace the traditional narrative. Chapters explore New World civilizations prior to the invasions, the genesis of conquistador culture on both sides of the Atlantic, the roles black Africans and Native Americans played, and the consequences of the invasions. The book reveals who the conquistadors were and what made their adventures possible.

"Dismissing hoary myths, revising the political narrative, integrating the new findings from ethnohistory, and never losing sight of the conquistadors themselves and their indigenous allies as the protagonists of the story, this book provides an intelligent and fresh overview of the conquest of Spanish America for twenty-first century readers." - Stuart Schwartz, author of *Victors and Vanquished: Spanish and Nahua Views of the Conquest of Mexico*
About the Author
Matthew Restall is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of Latin American History and Director of Latin American Studies, Pennsylvania State University. Felipe Fernndez-Armesto is William P. Reynolds Professor of History, University of Notre Dame.