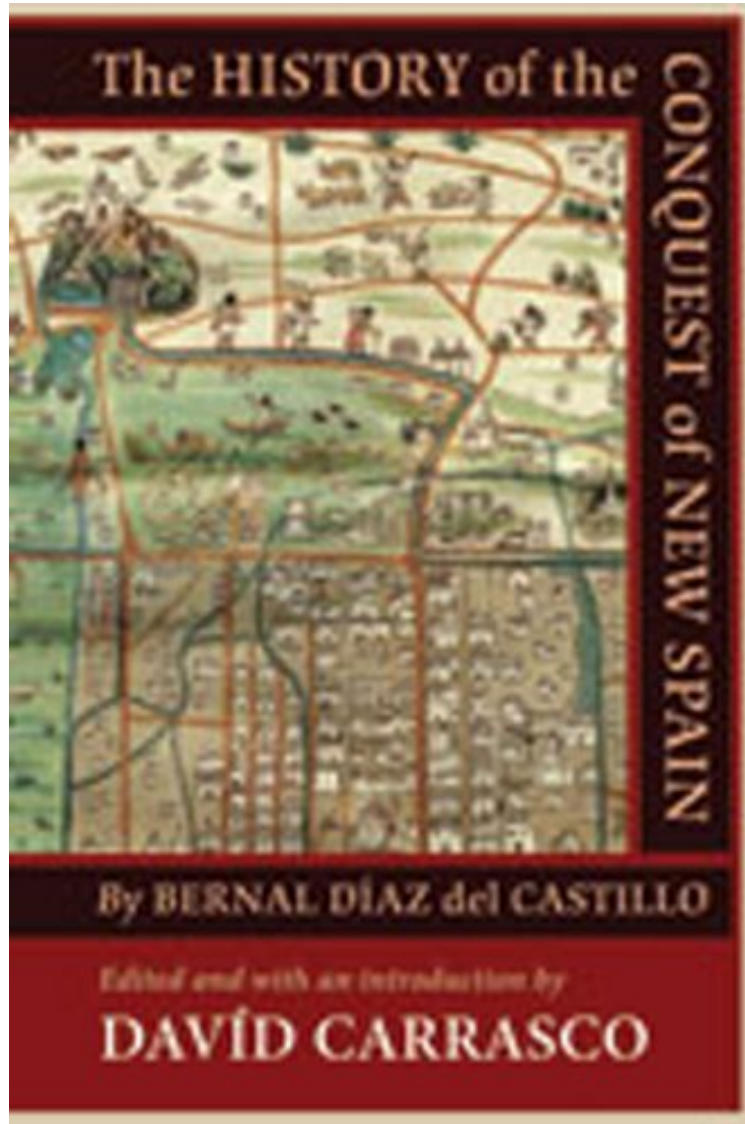


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## The History of the Conquest of New Spain by Bernal Daz del Castillo

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**From Brand: University of New Mexico Press : The History of the Conquest of New Spain by Bernal Daz del Castillo** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of the Conquest of New Spain by Bernal Daz del Castillo:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Epic AdventureBy Robert A. BourgeoisThis is an eyewitness account by a soldier who participated in all the major expeditions of the conquest of Old Mexico (now called the Aztec

empire) by conquistadors and also a brief account of the conquest of the Mayan lands of Guatemala. The major figure of the first conquest is Hernan Cortes and of the second, Pedro de Alvarado. This edition provides essential, clear, and extremely important maps, as well as a number of short essays to contextualize the participants and the culture of the Mexica Indians or, as we now call them, Aztecs. For example, we learn of La Malinche, the Aztec woman who served as both the mistress and interpreter of Cortes at every stage of the invasion; other essays cover sexuality in the conquest and the cultural context of human sacrifice. It is a riveting story, even though, or perhaps because, the author is a simple man: a good soldier who provides an objective chronicle of the episodes of this monumental conquest. Del Castillo's character study of Montezuma, including the account of his death, is masterful and infinitely sad. Both sides, from their own viewpoint, routinely practiced savage cruelty and at the same time were capable of courage, magnanimity, and refinement. This account -- one of the the greatest adventures of all time -- filled me with awe, pity, and dread. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Insightful, fascinating, ancient true account, easy to read! By Susan Gebhardt If you want to relive what really happened when Cortes first set foot on the shores of what is now Mexico, please read this. It is almost as if you are sitting there listening to a friend tell a story about a trip that they had and all that they saw and did. The fact that David Carrasco really brought back all the words that were originally left out, and his added information accompanying the story, certainly added to the perspective of the history of this time in Mexico. Extremely colorful, revealing, and sometimes brutal, Bernard Diaz del Castillo describes everything from his memory, years later. He says in the beginning that he left this legacy for his children because he never got the gold that this expedition had promised him! How much luckier are we that he did this instead. A wonderful story of what one man saw accompanying Cortes, and his comparisons and perspective on what he saw and did are priceless! I loved it when he first met Montezuma, sitting on his throne, and of all things, Bernard said he was eating a tortilla!!!! Wish every American traveling to Mexico would read this first!!!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Unbelievable read! I had no idea such an articulate ... By Steven King Unbelievable read! I had no idea such an articulate record existed of this conquest. So revealing to read about two cultures having first contacts and the clash of cultures and traditions. So many interesting comparisons -the nature of humanity.

The History of the Conquest of New Spain by Bernal Diaz del Castillo, a new abridgement of Diaz del Castillo's classic *Historia verdadera de la conquista de Nueva Espaa*, offers a unique contribution to our understanding of the political and religious forces that drove the great cultural encounter between Spain and the Americas known as the 'conquest of Mexico.' Besides containing important passages, scenes, and events excluded from other abridgements, this edition includes eight useful interpretive essays that address indigenous religions and cultural practices, sexuality during the early colonial period, the roles of women in indigenous cultures, and analysis of the political and economic purposes behind Diaz del Castillo's narrative. A series of maps illuminate the routes of the conquistadors, the organization of indigenous settlements, the struggle for the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan, as well as the disastrous Spanish journey to Honduras. The information compiled for this volume offers increased accessibility to the original text, places it in a wider social and narrative context, and encourages further learning, research, and understanding.

From the Inside Flap A new abridgement of Diaz del Castillo's classic *Historia verdadera de la conquista de Nueva Espaa*. About the Author David Carrasco is Neil L. Rudenstine Professor of the Study of Latin America with a joint appointment in the Department of Anthropology and the Divinity School at Harvard University. He was recently awarded the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle.