



Conquistador Voices (vol II): The Spanish Conquest of the Americas as Recounted Largely by the Participants (Volume 2)

By Kevin H Siepel

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Follow the Spanish Conquest of the Americas through first-person action accounts.

In *Conquistador Voices* you will hear explorers, conquistadors, and, in some cases native peoples--aided by the author as narrator--tell us what they themselves saw and did during the Conquest. To make such 500-year-old "sound bites" attractive to the modern reader, fresh translations of much of this material have been made from Spanish and Italian sources. In this book, written for the general reader and consciously refraining from praise or condemnation, you are likely to learn much more about those epic times than you ever learned in school. Volume II is devoted to the conquest of Peru and the Incas by Francisco Pizarro and his brothers; to the Narváez expedition and subsequent years-long odyssey of Álvaro Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca through North American deserts; and to the disastrous expedition of Hernando de Soto to today's southeastern United States. Eight maps accompany the text. An index, copious footnotes, and brief bibliography are also included. 428 pp.

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Editorial Review

Review

A nuanced view . . . Clear and engaging with minimal biased commentary. Perfect for anyone looking for a more in-depth look at the Spanish conquistadors, and interested in them as three-dimensional and not just distant figures. . . . An interesting and wide-ranging look at a critical period in history. - **Foreword Reviews**

Clearly a labor of love. - **Publishers Weekly**

Exhaustively researched, exceptionally well written, impressively organized and presented, . . . very highly recommended for both community and academic library world history reference collections in general, and Spanish conquistador supplemental studies lists in particular. – **Midwest Book Review**

This book should be promoted in universities and in US social organizations where there are many second- and third-generation Latinos who have no idea of their origins in this country, and who would be very much enriched by reading this book. – **Opciones magazine**

It's not very often that a book as necessary as it is interesting lands on our desk. . . . A refreshing account . . . This English-language work ought to be required reading in US Latino academic circles. . . . A welcome literary effort. – **Gente de Exito magazine**

A great read, for pleasure or for historical background on the Spanish conquistadors and their initial contact with the American Indians. . . . Uses extensive translations of primary sources, Spanish as well as native, with a commentary that is straightforward and makes sense. The translations are extremely good. Any university or secondary-education student would be able to comprehend and make use of this book, which is a useful complement to specialized courses in Latin American or colonial American history . . . Highly recommended. – **Russell M. Lawson, Professor of History, Bacone College**

In *Conquistador Voices* the conquistadors give us their version of events, ably related here in modern documentary fashion. What is especially valuable is that the author makes no judgments on these men, preferring to “leave this to the reader.” In translating many of the original documents himself he has struck a nice balance between the original sense of the narrative and a text that “hooks” the modern reader. . . . Siepel, whose primary announced purpose is to teach, makes us laugh, cry, and—why not?—suffer along the way. . . . *Conquistador Voices* would make a fine gift for anyone interested in learning more about the Conquest. – **Hoy en Delaware magazine**

From the Back Cover

If all you know about the conquistadors is what you learned in school, this book may be for you.

This is not a standard history book, but rather a sort of television documentary in written form. In it you will hear the voices of the conquistadors themselves as they tell you--through a series of "sound bites" that they themselves have provided--what they saw and did during the Conquest. These voices have been brought together and context established by the author as narrator, to provide you with a vivid, streamlined, and overall compelling reading experience.

The entire sweep of the Conquest is covered in two volumes of adventure--Christopher Columbus and Hernán Cortés in Volume I, and Francisco Pizarro, Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, and Hernando de Soto in

Volume II. You'll be whisked from the islands of the Indies to central America, Mexico, Peru, today's southeastern US, Mexico again, Paraguay, and back to the US, in the process having to embark on two desperate escapes by sea.

Delve into these five narratives--a one-stop Conquest summary for the general reader--and you should come away with a fuller and more realistic appreciation of those epic times than you may have ever had before.

About the Author

Kevin H. Siepel writes on personal, historical, and environmental themes. His most recent work is the two-volume *Conquistador Voices*, a fresh look at the Spanish Conquest of the Americas that makes extensive use of newly-translated first-person accounts by conquistadors or others to whom the account may have been dictated. The five personages covered in these two volumes are Christopher Columbus, Hernan Cortes, Francisco Pizarro, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, and Hernando de Soto.

The author's benchmark *Rebel: The Life and Times of John Singleton Mosby* (St. Martin's, DaCapo, University of Nebraska Press) has proven durable, as has his biography of a western New York state pioneer, which also broke new ground.

Siepel's essays and articles have appeared in the Christian Science Monitor, Foreign Service Journal, Civil War, Wild West, two Chicken Soup for the Soul volumes, at wordworth.com, and elsewhere. One of his Monitor essays was translated into several languages and published worldwide by Readers Digest. Siepel speaks and teaches Spanish.

Users Review

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