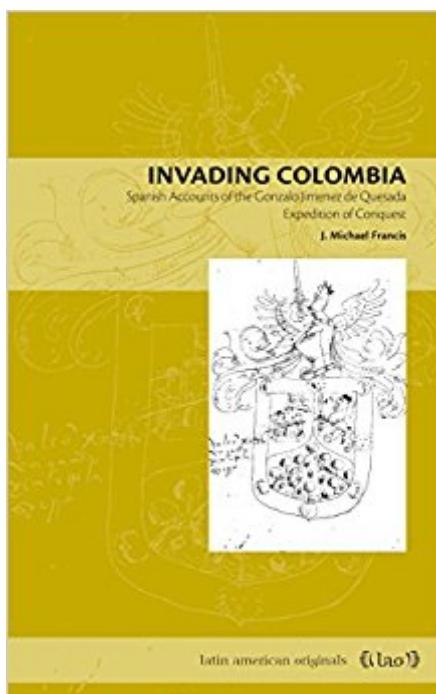


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Invading Colombia: Spanish Accounts Of The Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada Expedition Of Conquest: Volume 1 (Latin American Originals)



Synopsis

In early April 1536, Gonzalo Jiménez de Quesada led a military expedition from the coastal city of Santa Marta deep into the interior of what is today modern Colombia. With roughly eight hundred Spaniards and numerous native carriers and black slaves, the Jiménez expedition was larger than the combined forces under Hernando Cortés and Francisco Pizarro. Over the course of the one-year campaign, nearly three-quarters of Jiménez's men perished, most from illness and hunger. Yet, for the 179 survivors, the expedition proved to be one of the most profitable campaigns of the sixteenth century. Unfortunately, the history of the Spanish conquest of Colombia remains virtually unknown. Through a series of firsthand primary accounts, translated into English for the first time, *Invading Colombia* reconstructs the compelling tale of the Jiménez expedition, the early stages of the Spanish conquest of Muisca territory, and the foundation of the city of Santa Fe de Bogotá. We follow the expedition from the Canary Islands to Santa Marta, up the Magdalena River, and finally into Colombia's eastern highlands. These highly engaging accounts not only challenge many current assumptions about the nature of Spanish conquests in the New World, but they also reveal a richly entertaining, yet tragic, tale that rivals the great conquest narratives of Mexico and Peru.

Book Information

File Size: 1343 KB

Print Length: 150 pages

Publisher: Penn State University Press; 1 edition (December 21, 2007)

Publication Date: December 21, 2007

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B017OXFE7E

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #622,996 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #47 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Europe > Spain & Portugal #94 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Colombia #120 in Kindle Store

Customer Reviews

Had to get after attending a history session and hearing author speak.

This could have been a much better work if more context was included, also better maps. As such it is just a translation (good) of a series of primary sources. On the other hand it is not clear when the text of the primary source begins and when the opinion of the Mr. Francis continues.

There is precious little information on the conquest of Colombia. This book draws together various sources to give a history of the conquest of Colombia which should be on the shelf of any serious student of Latin American history. It is a brief book due to the lack of sources, but it is neatly laid out and serves as an essential reference.

This is an excellent history of an often overlooked subject, the Spanish conquest of Colombia. Dr. Michael Francis exhibits a deep knowledge of his subject, and provides many new insights into our understanding of the processes whereby northern South America became part of the Spanish empire. The comparisons to Pizarro's invasion of the Andes are particularly helpful. Best of all, the narrative is exciting and often tragic, with dramatic stories that will remain in your mind for a long time.

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