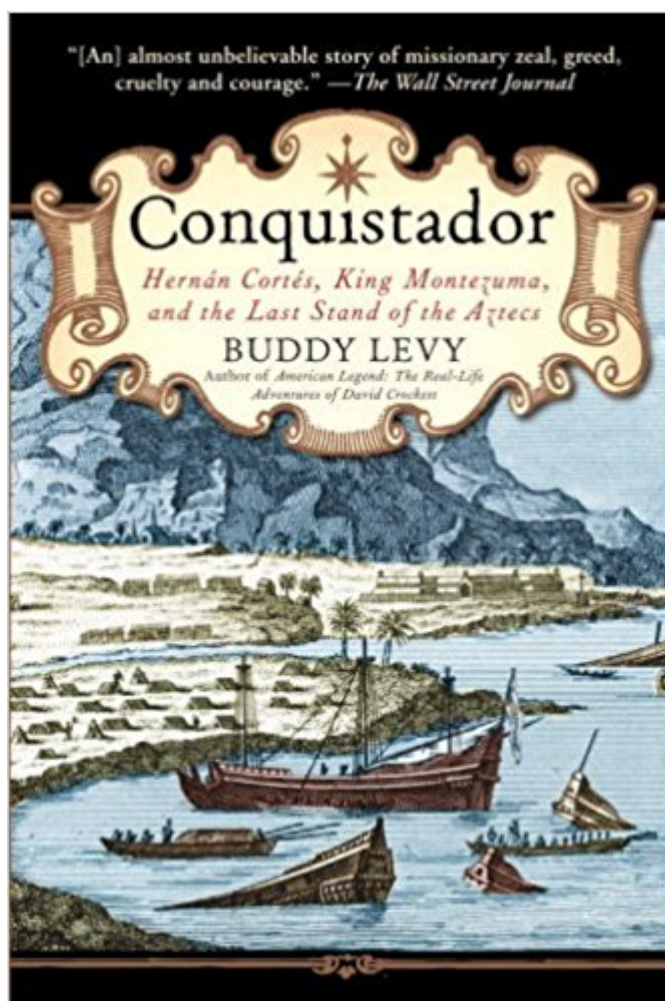


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Conquistador: Hernan Cortes, King Montezuma, And The Last Stand Of The Aztecs



Synopsis

In this astonishing work of scholarship that reads like an edge-of-your-seat adventure thriller, acclaimed historian Buddy Levy records the last days of the Aztec empire and the two men at the center of an epic clash of cultures perhaps unequalled to this day. It was a moment unique in human history, the face-to-face meeting between two men from civilizations a world apart. In 1519, Hernán Cortés arrived on the shores of Mexico, determined not only to expand the Spanish empire but to convert the natives to Catholicism and carry off a fortune in gold. That he saw nothing paradoxical in carrying out his intentions by virtually annihilating a proud and accomplished native people is one of the most remarkable and tragic aspects of this unforgettable story. In Tenochtitlán Cortés met his Aztec counterpart, Montezuma: king, divinity, commander of the most powerful military machine in the Americas and ruler of a city whose splendor equaled anything in Europe. Yet in less than two years, Cortés defeated the entire Aztec nation in one of the most astounding battles ever waged. The story of a lost kingdom, a relentless conqueror, and a doomed warrior, Conquistador is history at its most riveting.

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Customer Reviews

The saga of Cortés, Montezuma, and the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire has been chronicled repeatedly, and with justification, since it is one of the seminal events in world history. There is probably no new information on the conquest left to uncover, but it is a thrilling, moving, and tragic story well worth retelling. Levy is not a professional historian, but he is a fine writer who knows the material, and he is wise enough to allow the pure excitement and drama of the story to

unfold naturally. At the center of the tale, of course, are the two protagonists. Cortés is viewed as an intriguing combination of ruthless ambition, religious piety, and surprising tenderness. Montezuma, also deeply religious, was less a man of action than Cortés, and his contemplative nature probably sealed his doom. As Levy illustrates, this was also an earthshaking clash of civilizations that is still working itself out five centuries later. This is a superb work of popular history, ideal for general readers. --Jay Freeman --This text refers to the Audible Audio Edition edition.

"For sheer drama, no age compares to the age of exploration, no explorers compare to the conquistadors and no conquistador compares to Hernan Cortes. In Buddy Levy's finely wrought and definitive Conquistador, the worlds of Cortes and Montezuma collide and come to life. Five hundred years after the conquest, the Cadillo and his prey have been made human. To read Conquistador is to see, hear and feel two cultures in a struggle to the death with nothing less than the fate of the western hemisphere at stake. Prodigious research and stirringly told, Conquistador is a rarity: an invaluable history lesson that also happens to be a page-turning read." •Jeremy Schaap, best-selling author of Cinderella Man: James J. Braddock, Max Baer and the Greatest Upset in Boxing History, and Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler's Olympics "Sweeping and majestic...A pulse-quickening narrative." •Neal Bascomb, author of Red Mutiny: Eleven Fateful Days on the Battleship Potemkin "A century before the Mayflower, a single man settled the destiny of the Americas far more momentously than the Puritans ever could....Conquistador offers a fascinating account of the first and most decisive of those encounters: the one between the impetuous Spanish adventurer Cortés and Montezuma, the ill-starred emperor of the Aztecs.... [An] almost unbelievable story of missionary zeal, greed, cruelty and courage." •Wall Street Journal "Drawing heavily on both Spanish and Aztec sources. [Levy stresses] the military strategy, diplomatic initiatives, and personal relationship between Cortés and Aztec emperor Montezuma. Well-written. Highly recommended." •Library Journal, starred review "A fateful meeting of civilizations. Cortes is front and center in this book. [Levy's] description of the final siege on Tenochtitlan is especially dramatic." •Associated Press "Explores just how far invaders will go to take what they want." Cape Cod Times

I loved reading this book. It gives you the history of Cortes meeting the Aztecs, but it reads more like a novel than a history book. The bibliography is extensive, and the author gives notes on many of

the references. If you'd like to know the detailed story of this part of history, but don't want to read twenty history books regarding the subject, this is the perfect book to go for. Or, if you *would* like to read twenty history books on the subject, this is a good one to give you a good detailed overview, and directs you which sources to go to for further reading.

This is a very worthwhile read about the fall of the Aztecs and the consequences of European exploration of the New World. It provides an honest portrayal of Cortes which is rich in detail and scope. Although I knew the ending from high school history, Levy writes with a narrative style that creates suspense, as we follow Cortes from his first steps on the shore, his first encounter with the locals, and the final conflict. It makes you think how we came to be where we are today and the countless stories of conquest that are retold as history by the victors.

As an avid reader of history and expedition, this is at this point one of the best books I have ever read. It had me loving, hating and in awe of one of history's two greatest players. Just a fantastic book. The author is amazing in his ability to keep the reader spellbound throughout this story.

Great book. Easy to read. Gives the history of Cortes shortly before his arrival to his conquest of the Aztec empire. Now I want to know what happened before and after. The way it's written makes it hard to put down. I haven't read anything else about this history so I can't compare it. But I loved it.

Reading this book it's like you have seen *Gone With the Wind* or some other motion picture with all its ups and downs. Was it all a dream? Some of the Spaniards at times thought so. No, it's an epic story but it's all true. Would be well supplemented by additional material such as documentaries or maps. I think Buddy Levy is the kind of author who likes to go back to original sources and tell his own tale unfettered by popular myths (such as the Spanish being part of an Aztec prophecy -- the Spanish probably made this up to justify the conquest afterwards). He takes these original sources and weaves his own story that reads like a novel. Levy says it was probable that the Aztecs would have suffered this fate despite Cortez. And he is right, such a conquest was probably inevitable. But Cortez was a cunning catalyst for this, making himself governor of Mexico instead of Cuba's governor Velazquez.

Excellent book, this reads as if the author had been there himself. He tells a play by play true story of the incredible conquest by ultimate conquistador: Hernan Cortez.. If you love history and reading

about amazing people who shaped the world then you will love this book as much as me. Cortez succeeded by sheer will, never-ending determination, intelligence, craftiness, military genius and most of all a bottomless courage to be victorious against unimaginable odds. Cortez lived one of the most amazing lives in the history of man and Levy does a superb job of portraying the most important parts of it in this incredible read. This is rare biography you want to read start to finish.

I very interesting perspective on Cortez and the conquest of Mexico. I good and interesting read.

This is quite a book. I studied Cortez in HS and never learned any details. The details are amazing. It is hard to believe the story isn't fiction. This is a must read for any history buff.

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