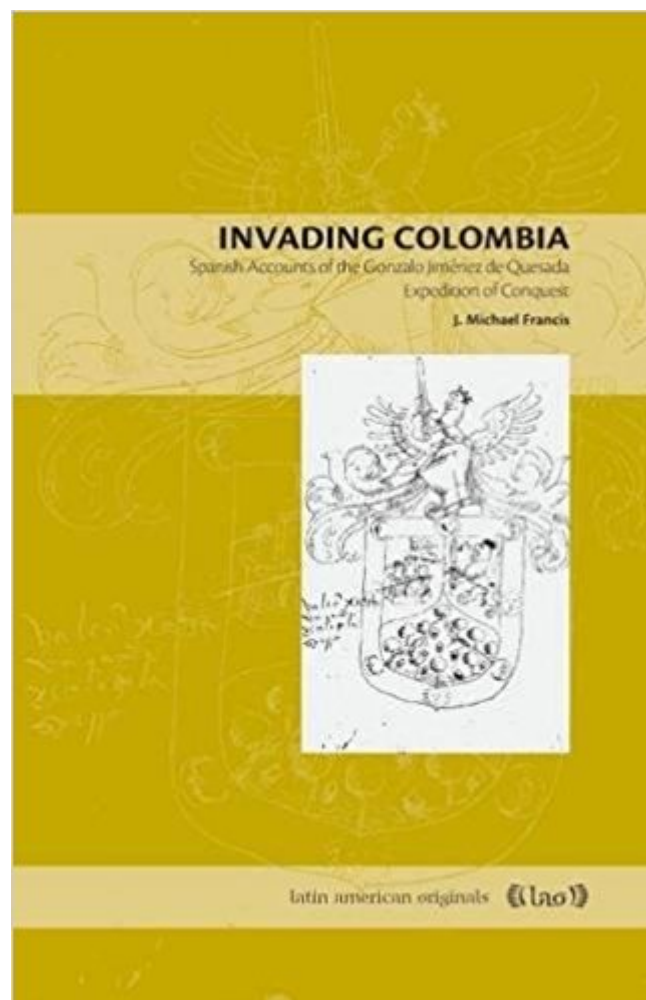




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Invading Colombia: Spanish Accounts Of The Gonzalo Jim nez De Quesada Expedition Of Conquest (Latin American Originals) (Volume 1)



Synopsis

In early April 1536, Gonzalo Jim nez 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 Jim nez expedition was larger than the combined forces under Hernando Cort s and Francisco Pizarro. Over the course of the one-year campaign, nearly three-quarters of Jim nez 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 Jim nez expedition, the early stages of the Spanish conquest of Muisca territory, and the foundation of the city of Santa F  de Bogot . 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

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Customer Reviews

  To add to the tragic brutalities of Cort s s conquest of Mexico and Pizarro s conquest of Peru, J. Michael Francis now offers us an admirable reconstruction of the hitherto unexplored

events that took place to the east of Peru. His *Invading Colombia: Spanish Accounts of the Gonzalo Jim nez de Quesada Expedition of Conquest* is the result of an exhaustive exploration of Sevillian archives. Accompanied by a lively introduction, and by commentaries and annotations that are as reliable as they are readable, the book poses the intriguing question of why an exploration that led more Spaniards into Colombia than Cort s led into Mexico, or Pizarro into Peru, should have remained almost completely unknown.     Fernando Cervantes, *Times Literary Supplement*  Not only does this volume present a fascinating story as told by participants and contemporaries, its impeccable scholarship, useful maps, tables, and index, and the lucidity of Francis  s writing will make it valuable not only to students but to others as well who are interested in the early period of Spanish expansion in the Americas and the varied peoples they encountered there.     Ida Altman, *Journal of Military History*

J. Michael Francis is Hough Family Chair of Florida Studies and Professor of History at the University of South Florida - St. Petersburg

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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