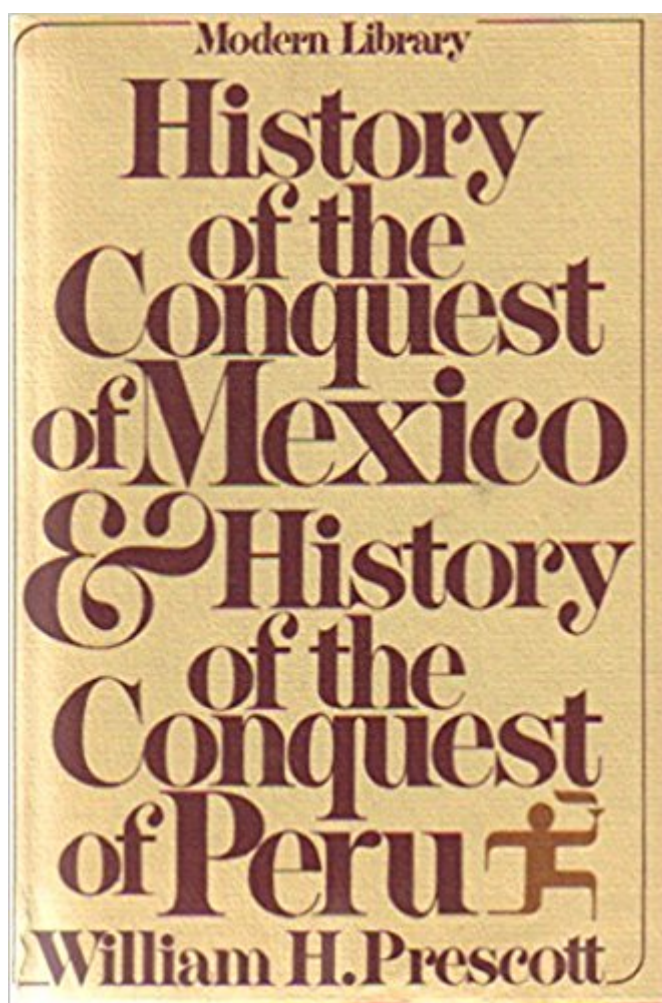


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Synopsis

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: William H. Prescott (1796-1859) is regarded as not only the first American scientific historian, but also one of the best historians of the nineteenth century. His studies of South America and other Hispanic regions were very well received during his lifetime and are still widely read and regarded as incredibly important by today's historians.

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Customer Reviews

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I HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO READ IT BUT TODAY I AM . ALSO I GAVE THE SECOND COPY TO MY FRIEND!

HernÃfÃn CortÃfÃs is second only in history to Alexander the Great in courage and military audacity. If these stories were not true even a Hollywood screen writer would not dare invent such

events! The author did meticulous research - and this in the mid-1800's when there were no phones, faxes, internet - and he was legally blind to boot (go to Wikipedia to learn more about this author who is fascinating in his own right). When reading these stories one can be appalled at some of the dastardly deeds - but remember the times and that many of these natives sacrificed (and even ate) innocent victims 24/7 to appease their gods. None the less, this book will stay with you rest of your life...

This is the best historian of the Spanish conquest of the new world. William Prescott did so much research and drew upon so many sources. This is history at its finest. Reads like Indiana Jones, but is all factual.

Superlative historian with excellent portrayal in almost real time. One of the best US historians. A classical piece of work already admired by many.

To tell the truth, I bought this book for the Peru section. I was very pleasantly surprised to fall in love again with the language of the Mexico section again after thinking it was outmoded by the 1990's restatement by Hugh Thomas in his book "Conquest." Despite the great advantage of more modern scholarship available than what was available to Prescott; I do have to reduce Prescott's stars to 4 because the modern view is actually more precise even if it does miss the wonderful phrasing of Prescott of the 1840's.

This 2 in 1 version is just right for the travellers flying all around. classic history of the europe and the latin america.

I discovered this book at an old library while looking for sources for a research paper in high school. The book I found was a good three times as old as myself, smelt of old basement, and gave me an allergy attack every time I opened it. After skimming a few of the chapters in the second book in the conquest of mexico, I became really interested. As i do with any truly promising book, I started over, from the very first page, and dived into the colorful, rich, exotic, and dangerous world of the 16th century Spanish conquest. My paper ended up being a week late due to the hours spent reading Prescott's book, but it was completely worth the bad grade, for I had found an amazing book full of wonderful histories of events that are scarcely (if at all) touched upon in any normal history class. I love this book for a different reason than most older historians and other readers do, because

reading this book really unlocked a passion for learning, and a desire to educate myself through reading. I have recommended this to almost all of my friends, and those who have read it share a similar appreciation for it. I'm going to be bold and say that I think this book and others like it have the potential to restore a good image of history into my generation. It's proof that history is isn't boring and dry and just a cyclical story of aristocrats getting married, full of dates and names to be memorized. The vivid language used by Prescott complements the nearly fantastic elements of the Spaniards' endeavors. Therefore I would highly advise against reading the "simpler" versions, for they provide no advantage other than to make the reader comfortable in their inability or reluctance to read English as the author intended. If we simply gave students in my generation access to works such as this and the opportunities to gain the skills to read them, then perhaps they would see for themselves the great stories to be heard outside of vampire fictions, and masterpieces like this wouldn't be gathering dust in an old library or only be found in the recesses of internet mega-retailers.

I'm not a historian. I just like to read history and historical fiction. I first discovered William Prescott's Conquest of Peru in the back of a used bookstore. My kids are from Peru so I decided I should check it out. The first section was about the Inca civilization; their society, customs, politics, and more. It was certainly interesting and readable, but a bit dry. Once the narrative turned to Pizarro and his band of adventurers, however, I was hooked. They don't call Prescott a romantic historian for nothing. He blends detailed accounts of absolutely outrageous courage, hardship, audacity, greed, ignorance, politics, faith, slaughter, naiveté, and more with vivid insights into the lives, characters and motives of the people involved. The story reads like excellent historical fiction, and yet it's meticulously researched fact. Prescott's Conquest of Mexico is every bit as good as Conquest of Peru. The book starts with a section on the Aztec civilization, then turns to Cortez and his men. These adventurers behaved as though they were invincible, they believed their faith in God made them so, and one almost comes to believe that they were as they beat unimaginable odds over and over and over again. I was on the edge of my seat through all three volumes. No offense to Lewis & Clark (or Stephen Ambrose), but Prescott's Conquest of Mexico and Conquest of Peru make Undaunted Courage sound like a family picnic. Remarkable events told by a remarkable author. It's no wonder these books are still popular more than one and a half centuries after they were written.

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