



Conquistador: Hernan Cortes, King Montezuma, and the Last Stand of the Aztecs

By Buddy Levy

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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 unequaled 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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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #53309 in Books
- Published on: 2009-07-28
- Released on: 2009-07-28
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.18" h x 1.00" w x 5.49" l, .81 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 448 pages

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