

Leeming's humility as a linguist as he includes tentative translations of tricky passages with informative explanations in the notes. More importantly, they finally have the tools to move beyond John Leddy Phelan's classic study of Franciscan millenarianism for a look at apocalypticism from an Indigenous perspective. We may never be able to reveal the personal thoughts of sixteenth-century Nahuas, but Aquino's notebook is a fascinating entry point into the strategies that they developed to deal with the traumatic events that unfolded in Mexico in the wake of the Spanish invasion.

JASON DYCK, University of Western Ontario

DOI 10.1215/00182168-10798056

Death in the Snow: Pedro de Alvarado and the Illusive Conquest of Peru.

By W. GEORGE LOVELL. McGill-Queen's Iberian and Latin American Cultures Series. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2022. Photographs. Maps. Figures. Appendix. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Bibliographic essay. Index. xv, 237 pp. Cloth, Can\$39.95.

In 1534, a few hundred Spaniards, many enslaved Africans, and several thousand forcibly conscripted Indigenous guides, porters, soldiers, and slaves labored upward from the tropical forests of Ecuador's Pacific coast into the Andean sierra snowpack. Pedro de Alvarado had left Guatemala chasing a slice of South America's wealth. The group was bound for Quito. Their route directly through the mountains left them vulnerable to the bitter winds, difficult footing, and labored breathing of the alpine environment. Sadly, many individuals, mostly Indigenous and African, did not make the descent back down. W. George Lovell lays the responsibility for the disaster, as well as the wider destruction wrought by the expedition, at the feet of Alvarado and his relentless pursuit of fortune and fame. Drawing from Spanish chronicle sources, archival materials, and transcribed primary source collections, Lovell delivers a highly readable, biographically driven narrative of the little-known episode, and throughout he centers its lamentable consequences on thousands of people because of Alvarado's rapaciousness.

The account proceeds in five compact sections. Part 1 overviews Alvarado's involvement in the Caribbean and Mesoamerica, in addition to summarizing early Spanish expeditions to Peru. Part 2 addresses how Alvarado organized and outfitted a large expedition under the guise of exploring the Pacific. Lovell details a remarkable roll call document composed as they departed of almost 500 Spaniards going on the journey, including numerous Alvarados and Garçilaso de la Vega, the father of El Inca. Also aboard the fleet, though they remain mostly anonymous, were thousands of Indigenous people from central Mexico, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, as well as enslaved Africans. Upon arriving on the coast of South America, Alvarado's forces unleashed a wave of violence on the Indigenous communities there, the main subject of part 3. Part 4 recounts the cordillera crossing. The lowland forests and then the deadly frigid temperatures of the high mountain passes rebuked Alvarado's dream of conquest. Once on the other side, the survivors were confronted by Diego de Almagro and Sebastián de Belalcázar, who had

recently claimed Quito. The final part reveals how Alvarado cut his losses by selling them the materiel (and people) and hightailing it back to Guatemala, leaving a trail of broken Indigenous communities behind. Alvarado apparently only briefly dwelled on the debacle and soon pursued another effort in the Pacific before dying in west Mexico. Lovell concludes that Alvarado's constant ambition merely left him more obscure, becoming "the conquistador who never was" (p. 96). The author provides additional gems after narrating the failed invasion. Maps, hefty footnotes, and a historiographical essay make up more than half the book's pages, helpfully illuminating the journey's itinerary and the sources consulted. One can easily spend more time perusing the original Spanish and extended commentaries than the narrative itself.

Lovell's account laudably demonstrates how to use familiar sources to reveal lesser-known episodes of the Spanish invasion period. The life outlines of the most famous conquistadores, like Alvarado, and the most famous conquest episodes, like the invasions of Peru, are riddled with similarly confounding instances of unexpected meetings, frequent transience, and ignominious defeat. Lovell's work contributes to the continued exploration of these many loose ends and their impact. Each elucidation dredges up a more representative picture of the collision between worlds than the well-trodden tales of the fall of Tenochtitlan or Cuzco. Lovell concisely reminds readers that despite sustained academic scrutiny for the last 50 years there is much more work to do, one archival excavation at a time.

With the main text spanning just under 100 pages, its superb readability, and its brisk pace, the book would be well suited for undergraduate classrooms. Lovell lays bare the interconquistador rivalries, itinerant pursuits of illusionary wealth, and, ultimately, the all-for-naught results. Readers will clearly see the mass death and calamity that befell so many vulnerable populations, as well as the anonymity in which most of the participants languished. The book is a conquistador-centered narrative, so students would benefit from supplementary overviews of the Indigenous and African people who accompanied Alvarado. The Spanish sources are frustratingly mute on them and their worlds, even though they made up the overwhelming majority of the expedition. By delving into the details of a floundering expedition, Lovell therefore offers a small window through which numerous audiences can learn more about the larger realities of the so-called conquest period. Undoubtedly, scholars and students alike will be left pondering the futility and tragedy of it all.

SCOTT DOEBLER, Pennsylvania State University

DOI 10.1215/00182168-10797984

Sovereign Joy: Afro-Mexican Kings and Queens, 1539–1640. By MIGUEL A. VALERIO. Afro-Latin America. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022. Map. Figures. Tables. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xvii, 264 pp. Cloth, \$99.99.

Miguel A. Valerio's study of African confraternities and festival culture in Mexico—with an eye to the wider diaspora—is a story not only of Black agency, community, and