

America's Ancient Chiefdoms

4




The Coronado Entrada in 1540



**AMERICA'S ANCIENT CHIEFDOMS, 1539-1543:
CONQUISTADORS, PUEBLOS, AND MOUNDBUILDERS**

Routes of the Explorers

The first Spanish expeditions into the northern borderlands of New Spain sampled the continent's wondrous diversity. De Soto made his great march across a luxuriant country so stunning and productive that the expedition's journals are full of admiring description. He encountered complex native societies, which were often organized into powerful chiefdoms—generous in peace but formidable in war. Centuries of settlement has greatly altered this landscape. Not so Coronado's country. A traveler to the Southwest can still see places evocative of the first Spanish encounters with Indians of the pueblos and Plains. A sailor retracing Cabrillo's route up the California coast runs past mountains that, in the words of the chronicler, "seem to reach the heavens . . . [and are] covered with snow"—mountains he called the Sierra Nevada. They are today's Santa Lucia range. Cabrillo's voyage is now best followed in the imagination.

-  De Soto Expedition
-  Coronado Expedition
-  Cabrillo Expedition

For reference, modern placenames are shown in GRAY.
Dashed lines indicate uncertain routes.

North



Archaeology Southwest

Volume 19, Number 1

Center for Desert Archaeology

Winter 2005

The Quest for Coronado

Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Center for Desert Archaeology

A PECULIAR OBJECT was found by a shepherd more than 70 years ago while he wandered the hills of southern New Mexico. It was a sheet of curved iron

about 14 inches long and decorated with raised metal straps. The young man collected the curious artifact and gave it to his employer, who in time passed it down through his family. Some months ago, the piece was brought to the Coronado Roadshow, a public event in which local residents in Arizona and New Mexico were encouraged to share their old family collections with scholars. A legend had grown around the object, and many hoped that archaeologists could confirm the tale—for it was now said this breastplate came

from Francisco Vázquez de Coronado in his search for Cibola, the fabled Seven Cities of Gold.

From 1540 to 1542, Coronado led an armed force of nearly 2,000 people into lands they thought of as the outer edge of India. They discovered not a lost paradise of gold, but instead a realm of expansive deserts and forests, well known to, and well used by, the native peoples who dwelled there. This remarkable journey is one of the most endur-

ing and important events in American history because it laid the foundation for five centuries of exchange among Native Americans and Europeans. Even as extant documents give hints about these events,

much remains in the shadows of time. Where exactly the *entrada* went, which tribal groups the Spaniards met, and how native peoples dealt with the expeditionaries are all questions that remain unanswered.

Beyond academic pursuits, the expedition continues to spark the human imagination. Archaeologists believe that the shepherd's breastplate may have come from a quadricentennial celebration of Columbus's landfall. Although the artifact is not actually linked to Coronado, it is noteworthy that the family cherished this fragment of rusted metal for so long and that the breastplate may have been used in an event intended to recall our collective past. Some people hope to find Coronado's route as a way to foster local pride; for others, remembering Coronado is a key to understanding their own identities. "This is my ancestry," one Hispanic

participant told me during a Roadshow. "This is who I am. And I'm just so glad people are recognizing it."

In this issue of *Archaeology Southwest*, we present the latest research

This issue is made possible by grants from the New Mexico Humanities Council, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation.

Archaeology Southwest is a Quarterly Publication of the Center for Desert Archaeology



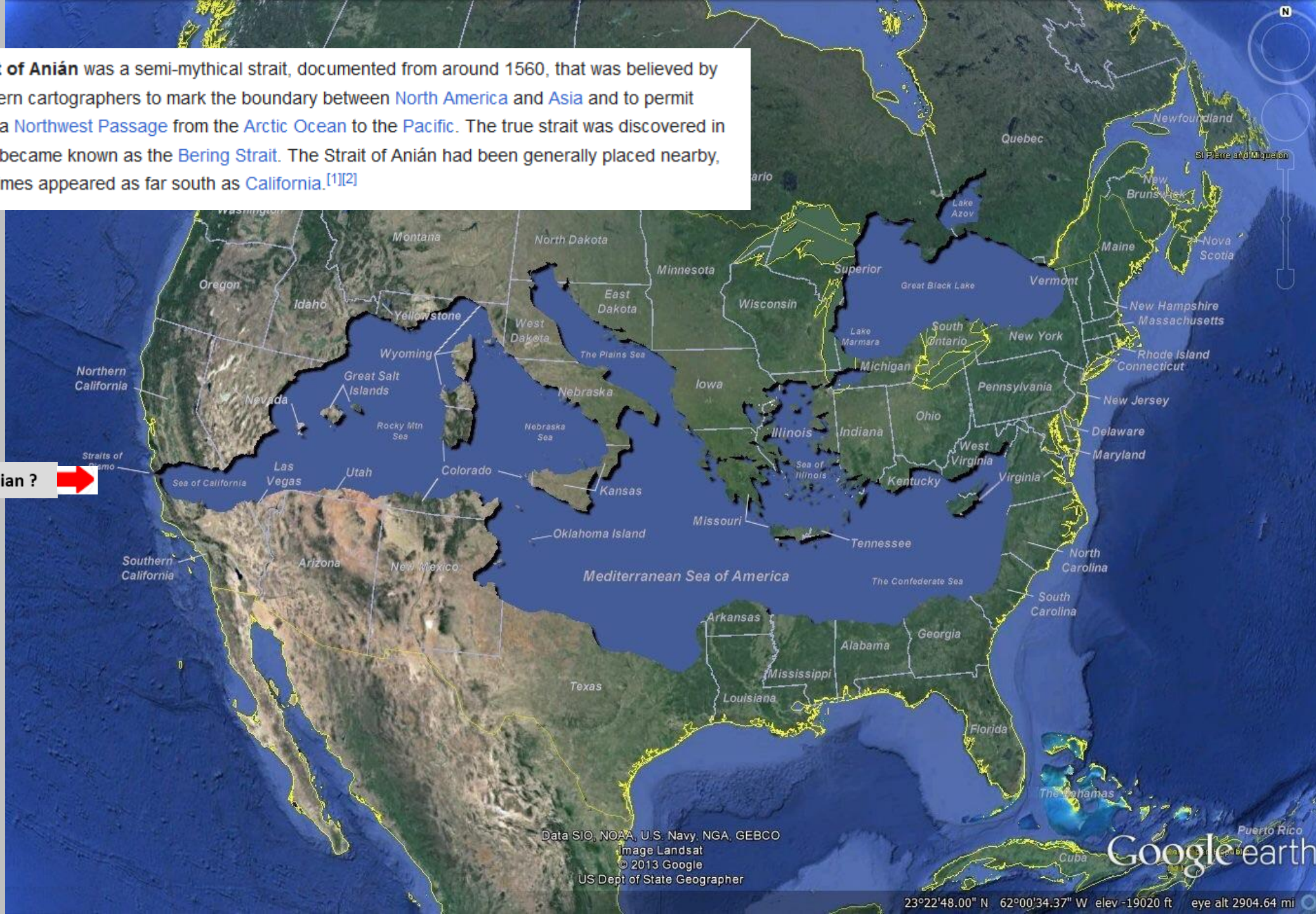
PHOTO BY CHIP COLWELL-CHANTHAPHONH

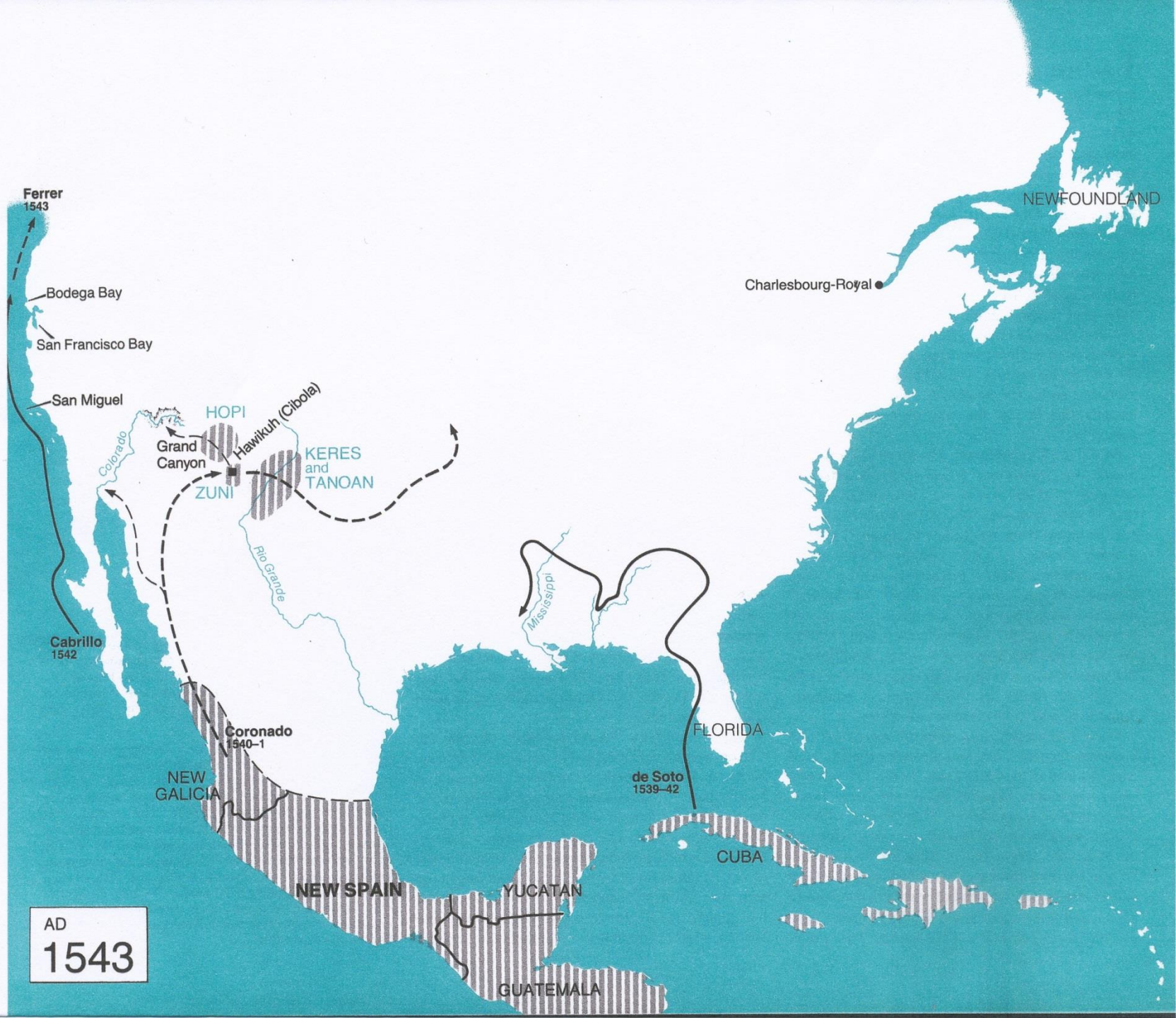
The Coronado National Memorial in the San Pedro Valley evokes the stories of our collective past and fosters a sense of place for Americans today.



The **Strait of Anián** was a semi-mythical strait, documented from around 1560, that was believed by early modern cartographers to mark the boundary between **North America** and **Asia** and to permit access to a **Northwest Passage** from the **Arctic Ocean** to the **Pacific**. The true strait was discovered in 1728 and became known as the **Bering Strait**. The Strait of Anián had been generally placed nearby, but sometimes appeared as far south as **California**.^{[1][2]}

The Strait of Anián ?





Ferrer
1543

Bodega Bay

San Francisco Bay

San Miguel

HOPÍ

Grand
Canyon

ZUNI

Hawikuh (Cibola)

KERES
and
TANOAN

Rio Grande

Cabrillo
1542

Coronado
1540-1

NEW
GALICIA

FLORIDA

de Soto
1539-42

CUBA

NEW SPAIN

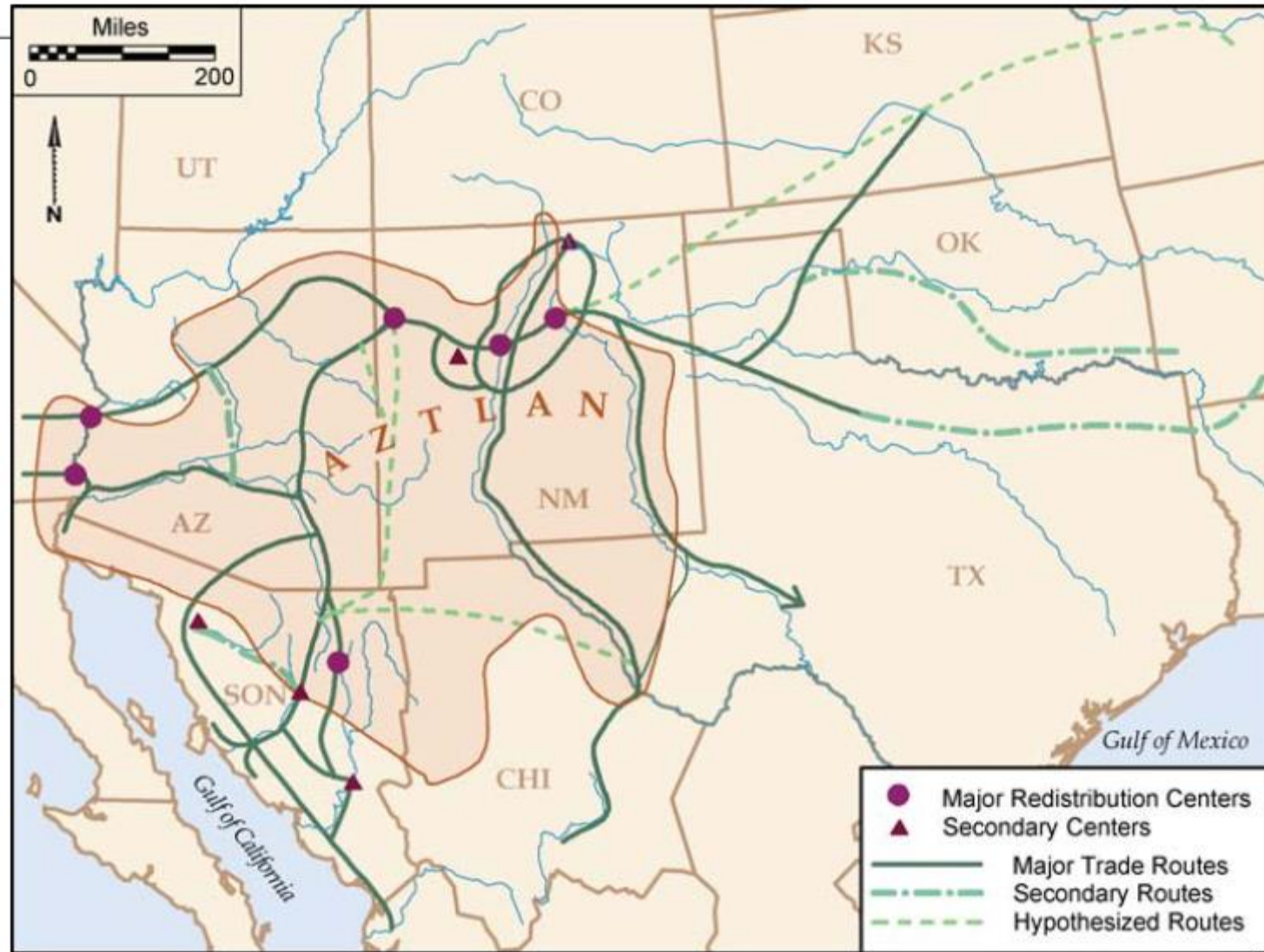
YUCATAN

GUATEMALA

NEWFOUNDLAND

Charlesbourg-Royal

AD
1543



Before Coronado, extensive trade routes crisscrossed the Greater Southwest. This map depicts the post-1450 routes.



Coronado's expedition into Tierra Nueva differed from de Soto's in a number of important ways.

—It was sponsored and supported by the King's Viceroy in Mexico City, Antonio de Mendoza. Coronado was his protégé. Communication with the Mexican base and source of supplies was tenuous but never broken.

—Along with Spaniards, it included a large number of Mexican warriors and servants (de Soto began with no Indians, forcing each chiefdom he visited to supply porters and releasing each group at the next chiefdom).

—It had fewer problems with language and communication. Interpreters were provided by the Indians of northern Mexico, and a chain of interpreters was easier to create as the expedition moved north.

The Most Excellent
Antonio de Mendoza
KOS



1st Viceroy of New Spain

In office

14 November 1535 – 25 November 1550

Monarch [Charles I of Spain](#)

Succeeded by [Luís de Velasco](#)

2nd Viceroy of Peru

In office

23 September 1551 – 21 July 1552

Monarch [Charles I of Spain](#)

Preceded by [Pedro de la Gasca](#)

Succeeded by [Melchor Bravo de Saravia](#)

Personal details

Pronunciation [/menˈdoʊzə/](#), Spanish:
[\[anˈtonjo ðe menˈdosa\]](#)

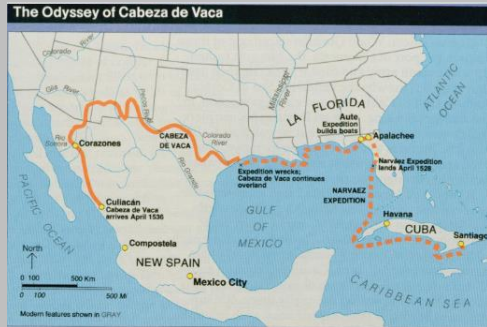
Born [Antonio de Mendoza y Pacheco](#)
c. 1495
[Alcalá la Real, Jaén, Spain](#)

Died [21 July 1552 \(aged 56–57\)](#)
[Lima, Viceroyalty of Peru](#)

Don Antonio de Mendoza was the first *viceroy* (governor) of Nueva España. He first came to the Americas from Spain on the orders of King Charles V in 1535. Among his entourage was a young, ambitious Francisco Vasquez de Coronado.

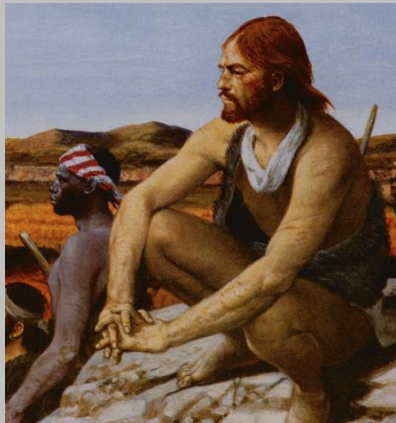
Mendoza played a pivotal role in the Coronado Entrada. As the King's official envoy in the Americas, Mendoza not only approved the formation of the expedition to the north and oversaw its organization, but backed an earlier scouting expedition to modern-day New Mexico led by Fray (Father) Marcos de Niza and Esteban de Dorantes to confirm rumors of wealthy cities to *Tierra Nueva*.

Mendoza also handpicked Vázquez de Coronado to lead the entrada instead of the experienced and powerful Hernán Cortés, a political move that infuriated Cortés.

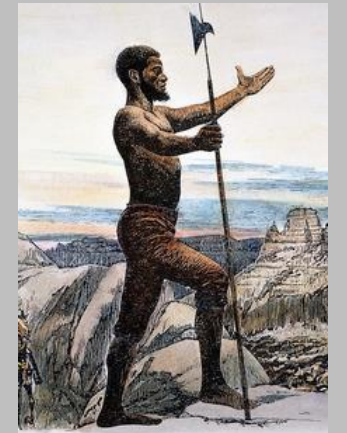


Mendoza and Coronado had the information provided by the four survivors of the Narvaez expedition. In 1539 the Viceroy sent a reconnaissance mission to Tierra Nueva, led by Franciscan friar Marcos de Niza. It was guided by Esteban, one of the companions of Cabeza de Vaca (who with the other two declined the offer and returned to Spain). As a “black” slave, Esteban had less choice in the matter.

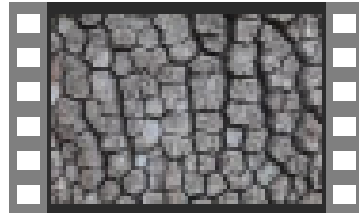
Esteban (or Estevanico) was probably a Moor from Morocco and was “swarthy” rather than “black.”



Fray Marcos de Niza



The Reconnaissance:
Fray Marcos and Esteban
1539



Fray Marcos de
Niza Monument
in
Lochiel-SD1_48...





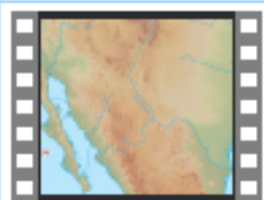
Fray Marcos de Niza



Esteban de Dorantes

When the three European survivors of the Narvaez disaster refused to lead an expedition to the north, Don Antonio de Mendoza, the Viceroy of New Spain, engaged the services of Esteban, purchasing him from Dorantes. Mendoza then persuaded a Franciscan friar, Marcos de Niza, to at least nominally head the venture.

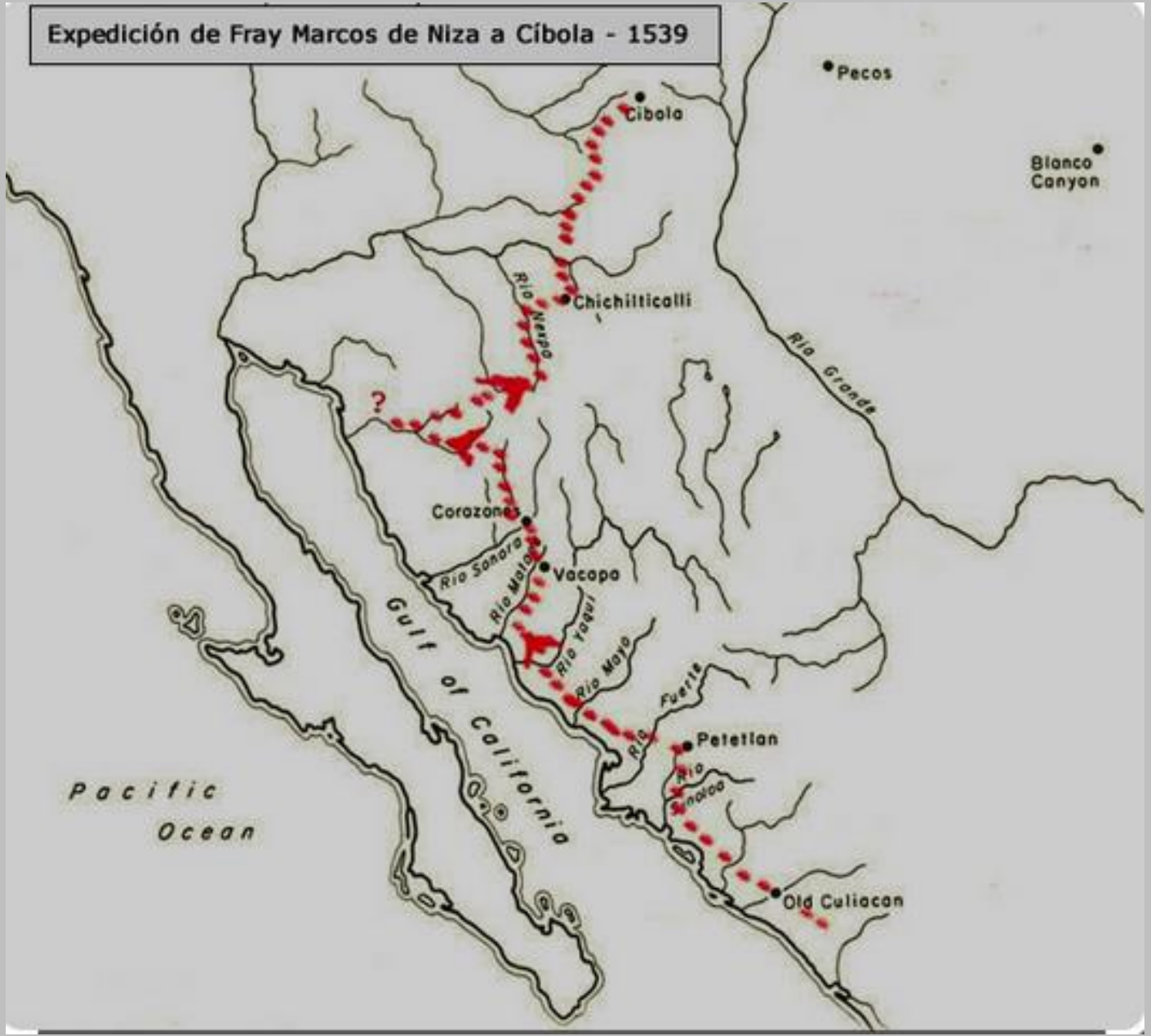
The group set out in 1539. By prior agreement, Esteban traveled several days ahead of Fray Marcos, leaving behind him a trail of crosses of varying size, corresponding with his findings. Esteban returned to his previous roles as healer, interpreter, and “son of the Sun.” Convinced of Esteban’s healing powers, some 300 natives joined his retinue and provided him with numerous presents.

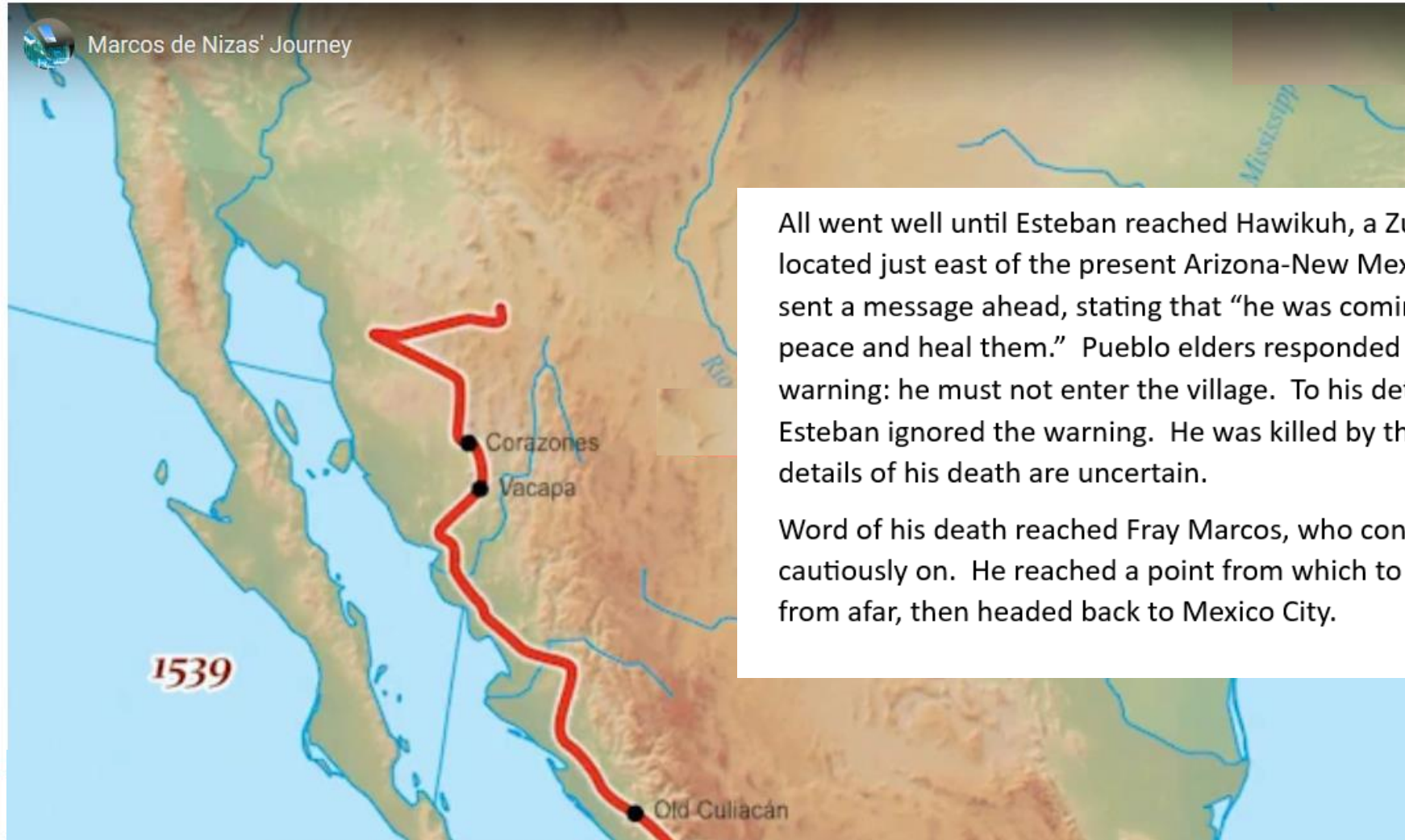


Marcos de Nizas'
Journey (480p)



Expedición de Fray Marcos de Niza a Cibola - 1539





Marcos de Nizas' Journey

All went well until Esteban reached Hawikuh, a Zuni pueblo located just east of the present Arizona-New Mexico border. He sent a message ahead, stating that “he was coming to establish peace and heal them.” Pueblo elders responded with a warning: he must not enter the village. To his detriment, Esteban ignored the warning. He was killed by the Zuni. The details of his death are uncertain.

Word of his death reached Fray Marcos, who continued cautiously on. He reached a point from which to view Hawikuh from afar, then headed back to Mexico City.

Fray Marcos de Niza's Journey North Route followed by Estevanico and Fray Marcos de Niza during their reconnaissance journey to locate the Seven Cities of Cibola in 1539.



Fray Marcos' assertions that he had seen splendid and wealthy cities (from afar) led to Coronado's expedition the following year.

For centuries, historians have debated Marcos' state of mind, motives, and beliefs. Was he delusional, confused or simply mistaken? His willingness to accompany Coronado the next year implies that he was in some way sincere.

The Entrada

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado



Francisco Vázquez Coronado in the Plaza Mayor de Salamanca

Governor of New Galicia

Monarch Charles I

Personal details


Born 1510
Salamanca, Crown of Castile

Died 22 September 1554
(aged 43–44)
Mexico City, Viceroyalty of New Spain

Signature

Handwritten signature of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado.

Military service

Allegiance  Spain

Years of service 1535–1554

Battles/wars Spanish conquest of Mexico
Exploration of North America

“As was true of most Spanish-led expeditions of the sixteenth century, the funds that financed the *entrada* came from the participants themselves. Not a single peso was supposed to come from the king.”

—R. Flint, “No Settlement, No Conquest,” p. 78

All were gambling that their investments would be handsomely rewarded by the conquest of wealthy lands.



The Coronado *Entrada* included over 2,100 people—

Senior officers:

—Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, captain-general in command.

—Lope de Samaniego, *maestre de campo* (field commander).

—12 senior officers.

Churchmen: Fray Marcos de Neza, two other Franciscan priests and two Franciscan lay brothers.

—368 soldiers/volunteers.

—four wives, several other women.

—c. 400+ servants and slaves.

—c. 1,300 “*indios amigos*” (Mexican Indian warriors, 800 Nahuatl (Aztecs), 400 others from western Mexico).

—550 saddle horses, 600 pack horses and mules.

Herds of cattle and sheep (thousands).

No pigs!

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No pigs!

The *entrada* included—

—competent senior officers, many of them relatives or acquaintances (master of the camp and second in command Luis de Moscoso; captain general Nuño de Tovar; captain of the foot Juan Rodríguez Lobillo, and others).

—the royal factor Luis Hernández de Biedma (representing the King’s interests and guaranteeing the “royal fifth” of any treasure).

—De Soto’s private secretary Rodrigo Rangel.

(Both Biedma and Rangel later wrote accounts of the *entrada*)

—Between 650 and 700 soldiers, many with experience in war.

—(De Soto made sure that some of them were skilled specialists: farriers [for horses’ hooves], carpenters, shoemakers, blacksmiths, tailors, caulkers, trumpeters [for sending signals in battle].)

—at least seven Catholic priests (administering the sacraments was considered essential; missionary work in this expedition was not).

—Cavalrymen with 223 horses, many of them destriers (trained war horses).

—Trained war hounds and their handlers (unknown number).

—About 300 pigs and their swineherds.

—A few mules and wagons.

—A few women brought along as servants or companions.

—Unknown number of slaves and servants.

—Four Timucuan Indians from Florida, captured in an earlier reconnaissance, taught Spanish, and used as interpreters.

Los Conquistadores

With a few thousand soldiers Spain conquered the Americas. Most of the soldiers were unemployed veterans of an army tempered by long campaigns against the Moors in Iberia and the French in North Italy. They came to America, wrote an eyewitness, "to serve God

and His Majesty, to give light to those who were in darkness, and to grow rich, as all men desire to do."

Los conquistadores were tough, disciplined, and as ruthless as circumstances required. Their weapons—evolved in the formal battle of Europe—were the match-

lock musket (sometimes called an arquebus), the crossbow, pikes, lances (carried by cavalry), swords, cannon, and above all the horse, which Indians universally regarded as a supernatural being. This weaponry served well against organized armies in Central Amer-

ica and Peru that fought in formations mostly with clubs, spears, and slings. But in North America, the Spaniards faced skilled and elusive archers who could drive an arrow through armor. The crossbow and musket soon proved useless. Far more effective were sword-wielding

cavalry and infantry and (for De Soto) wardogs. In the one battle Southeast Indians had a chance of winning (Mabila, 18 October 1540), De Soto against great odds slaughtered his antagonists. Thousands died against only 18 or so Spaniards. Foreshadowing things to come, this

battle demonstrated that Indians fighting with Stone Age weapons were no match against European arms and tactics.



Arquebusier, c. 1540

Crossbowman arming his weapon

Wardogs



An infantryman armed his crossbow by pushing the bow-spring back with a lever, engaging the trigger catch, and inserting a metal-tipped dart. This weapon was effective in Europe against formations and armor but less useful against a foe who quite sensibly soon learned to fight by stealth and avoid open combat.

The Spanish sword at its best was a superb piece of craftsmanship. About 41 inches long, it was double-edged, razor sharp, and flexible. A fine Toledo blade could be bent into a semi-circle and withstand a hard strike against steel. At hand-to-hand combat, Spanish swordsmen were unexcelled in either Europe or the New World.



Swordsman

About those horses:

Were any of the Spanish horses destriers?

A destrier (French word) was a highly-trained war horse, not used for ordinary riding.

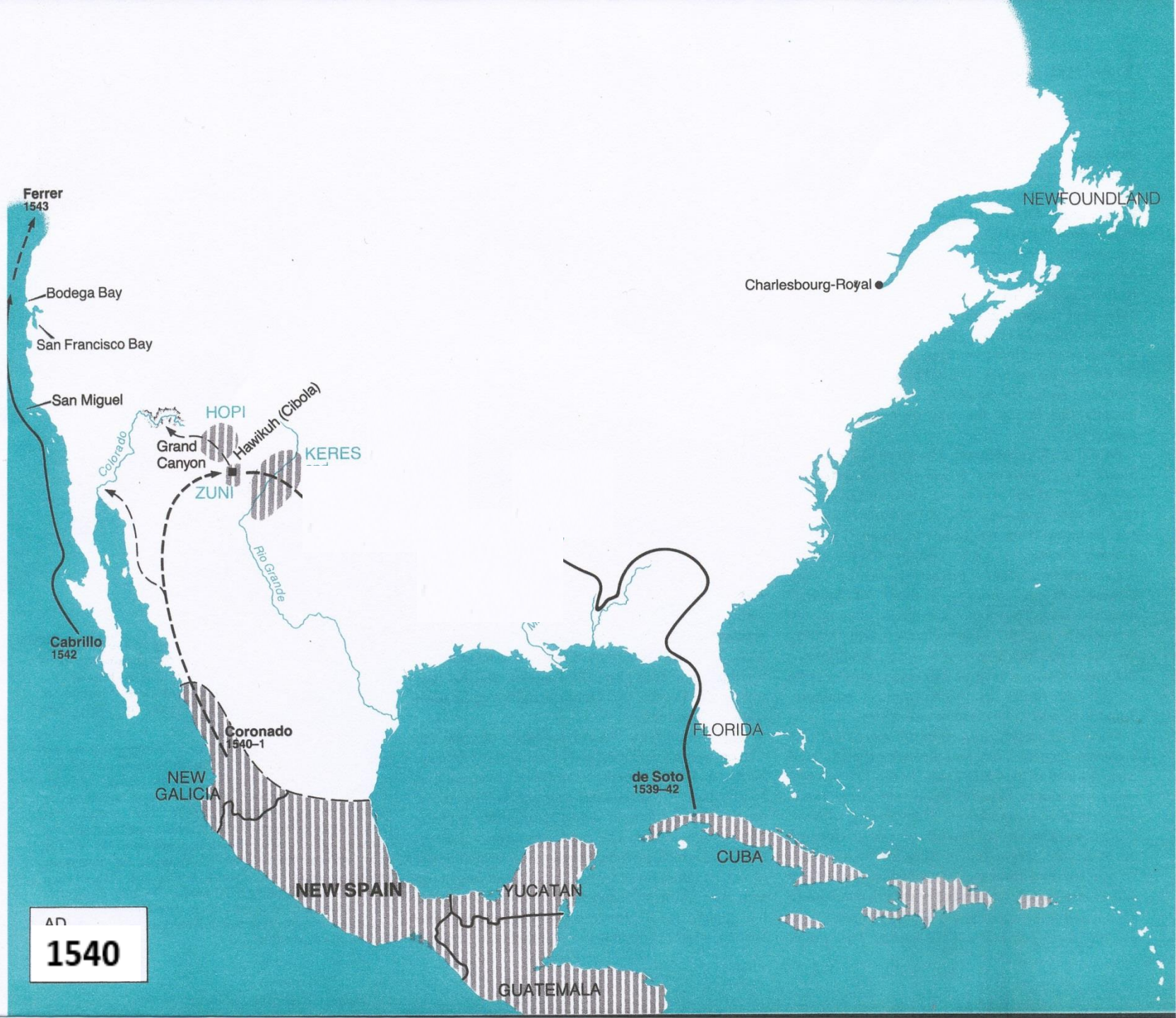
This week we'll watch a short film showing what these horses can do, and see a brief clip from the only movie I've seen that portrays destriers in combat, using movements similar to modern dressage.

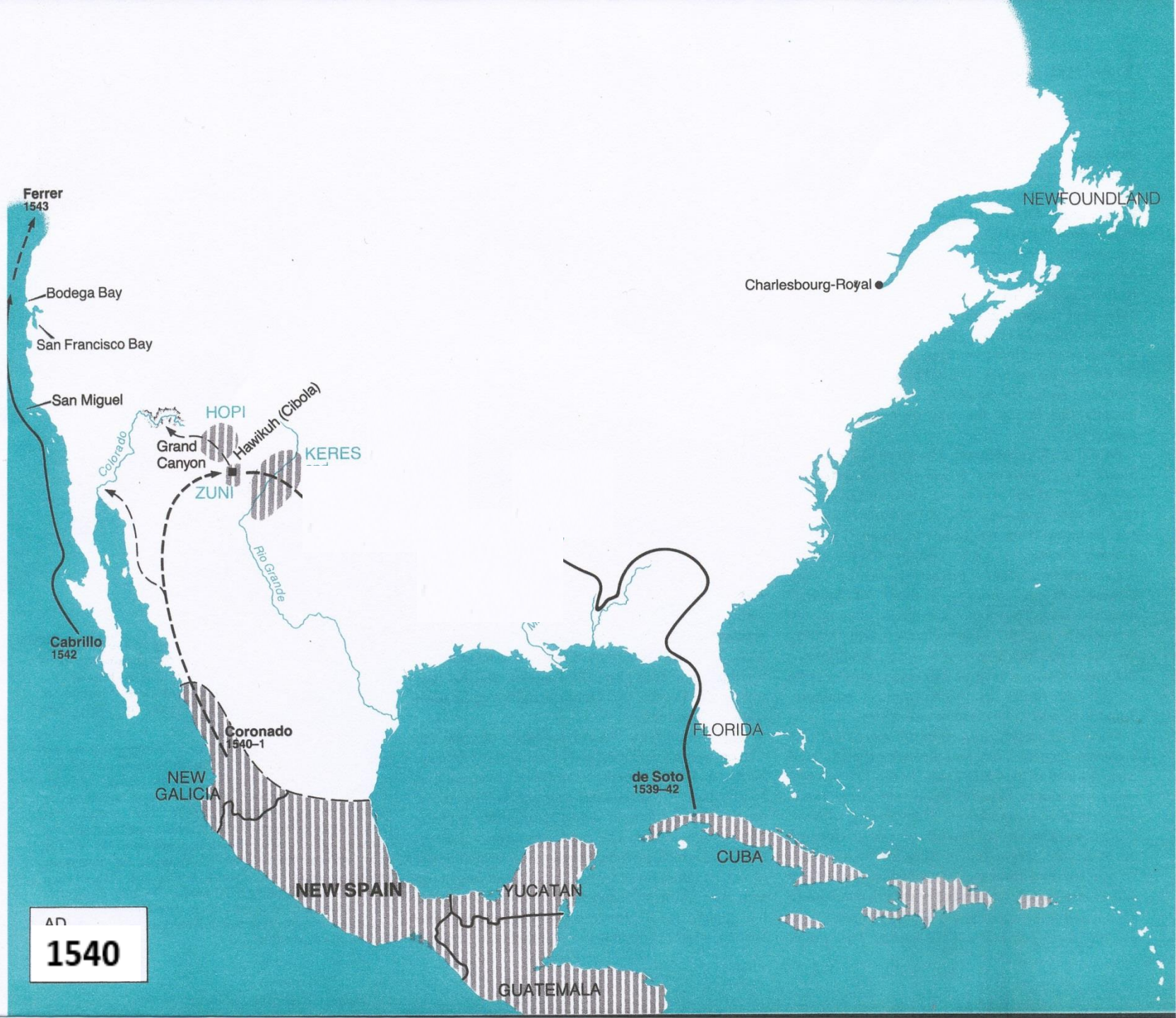
[Hint: the movie, like our conquistadors' narrative, takes place in the 16th century....but not in the New World or in Europe!]









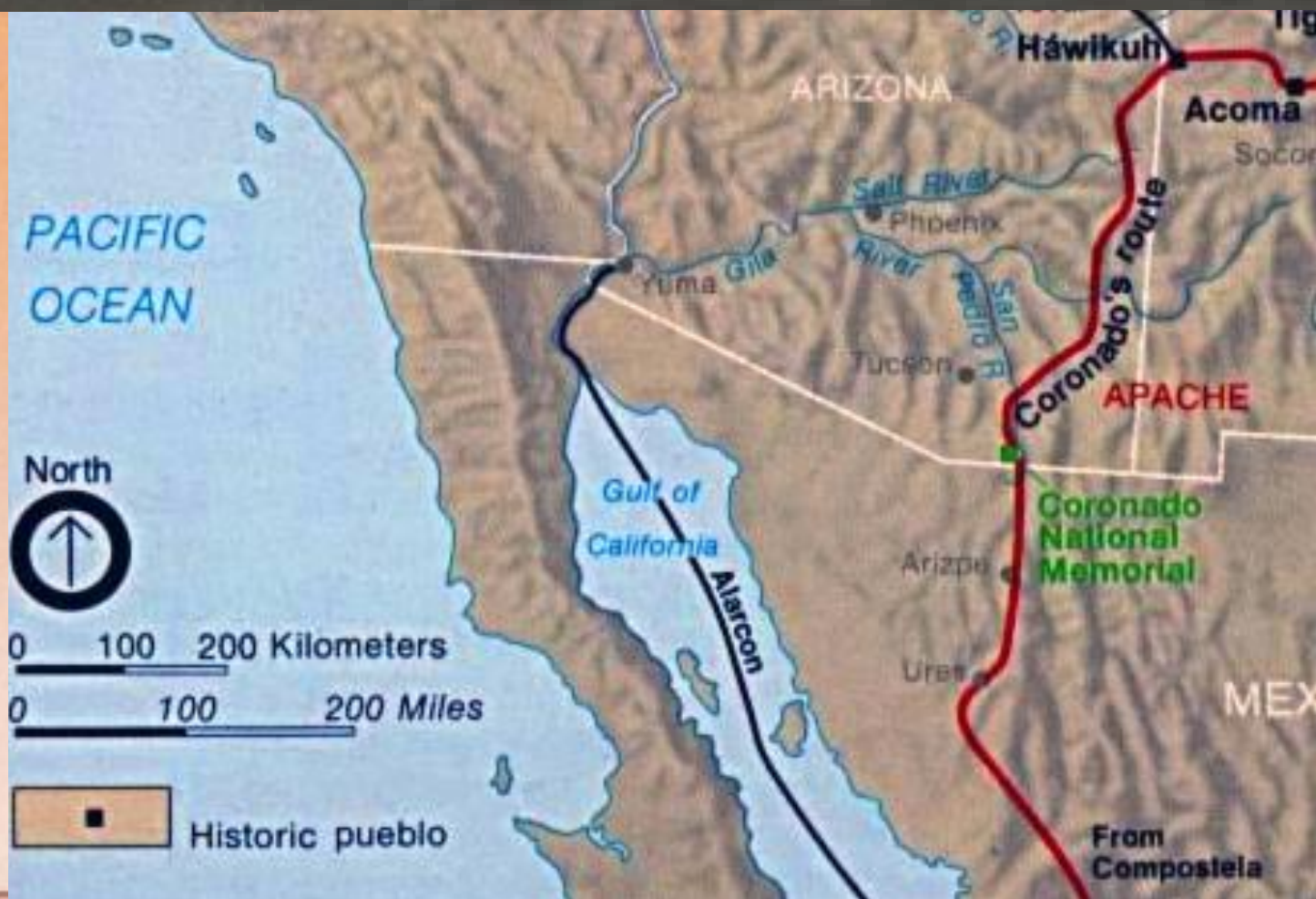


1540

Departs from Compostela with an army of 300 cavalry and infantry, several hundred Indian allies, friars, and a long pack train. Alarcón sails up the Gulf of California with three vessels. Expedition penetrates American Southwest, reaches Háwikuh in July; engages the Zuñi in battle; Coronado wounded.

Tovar explores Hopi villages in Arizona. Alarcón reaches mouth of Colorado River. Cárdenas sights the Grand Canyon.

Alvarado marches to Acoma, Pecos, and beyond.





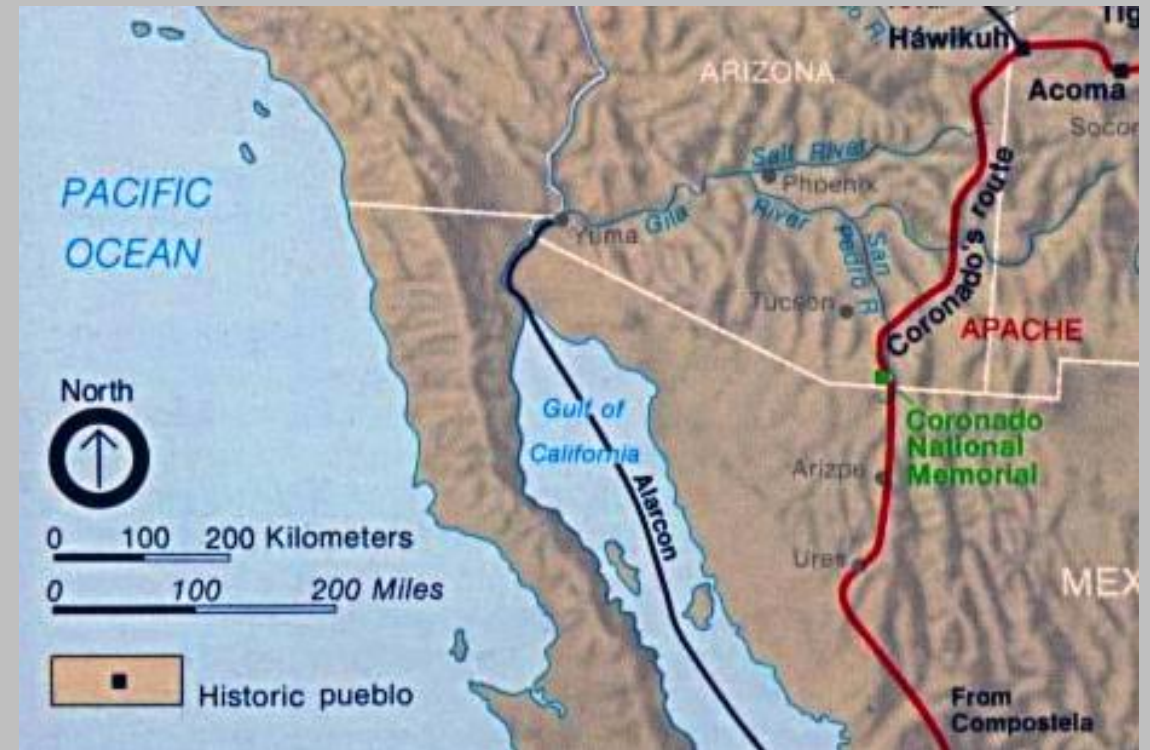
Coronado's force needed to acquire food (corn etc.) as it moved north into less settled areas. Because of this, he assembled an advance party of fighting men (about 350 Spanish and Indian soldiers) to move ahead of the main body of livestock, servants, and soldiers of the rear guard.

It was this force that would encounter the Indians at "Cibola" (the Zuni pueblo of Hawikuh).

BY SEA TO CHICHILTICALE

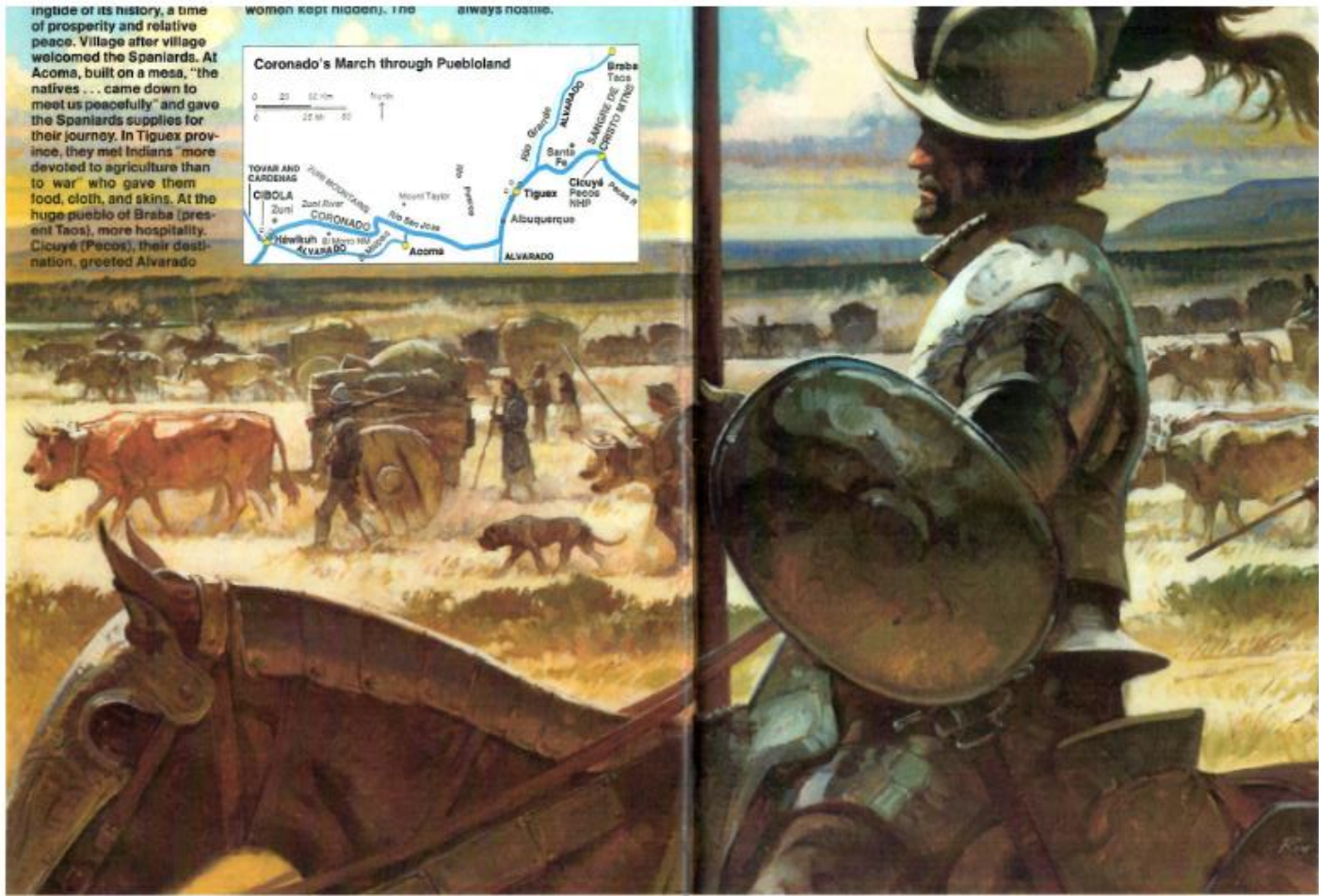
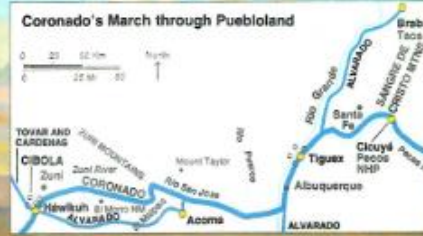
WHILE VÁZQUEZ DE CORONADO and his advance guard made their hungry way northward from Culiacán to Cibola, another party paralleled them by sea. Dispatched by the viceroy from Colima in May 1540, Captain Hernando de Alarcón was assigned to rendezvous with and resupply the land expedition.¹ His little fleet of three small ships sailed coastwise northward, nosing into every bay and inlet in search of some sign of the expedition. As a result of statements made by fray Marcos, Alarcón and his crews, as well as the viceroy and the captain general, thought that a port could be established at Chichilticale from which the expedition would be contacted and reprovisioned. Instead, unbeknownst to the land expeditionaries and the crews of the fleet, north of Culiacán the coast and the direct road to Chichilticale and Cibola diverged steadily. A port for Chichilticale proved illusory.

—R. Flint, No Settlement, No Conquest, p. 87



ing tide of its history, a time of prosperity and relative peace. Village after village welcomed the Spaniards. At Acoma, built on a mesa, "the natives . . . came down to meet us peacefully" and gave the Spaniards supplies for their journey. In Tiguex province, they met Indians "more devoted to agriculture than to war" who gave them food, cloth, and skins. At the huge pueblo of Braba (present Taos), more hospitality. Cicuyé (Pecos), their destination, greeted Alvarado

women kept hidden. The always hostile.



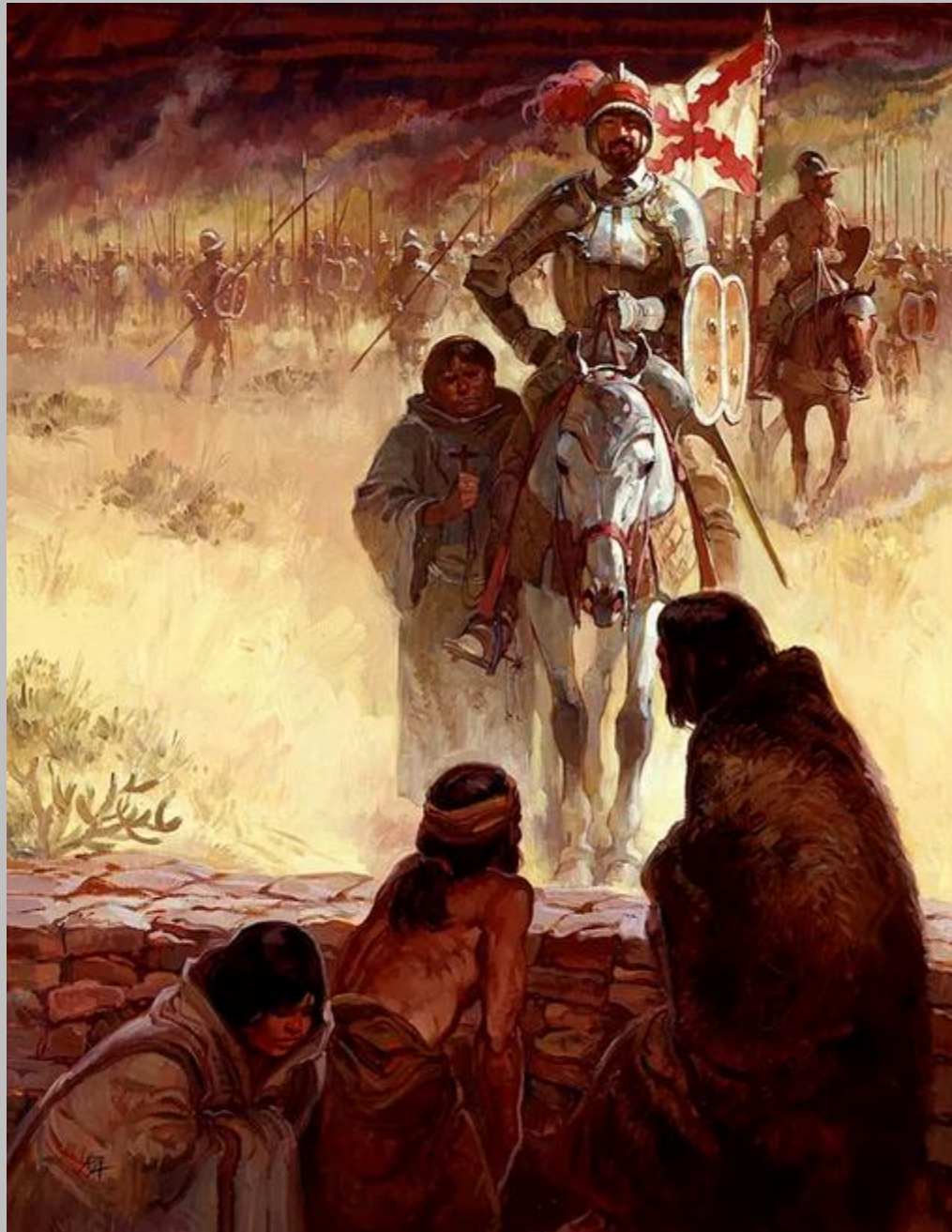




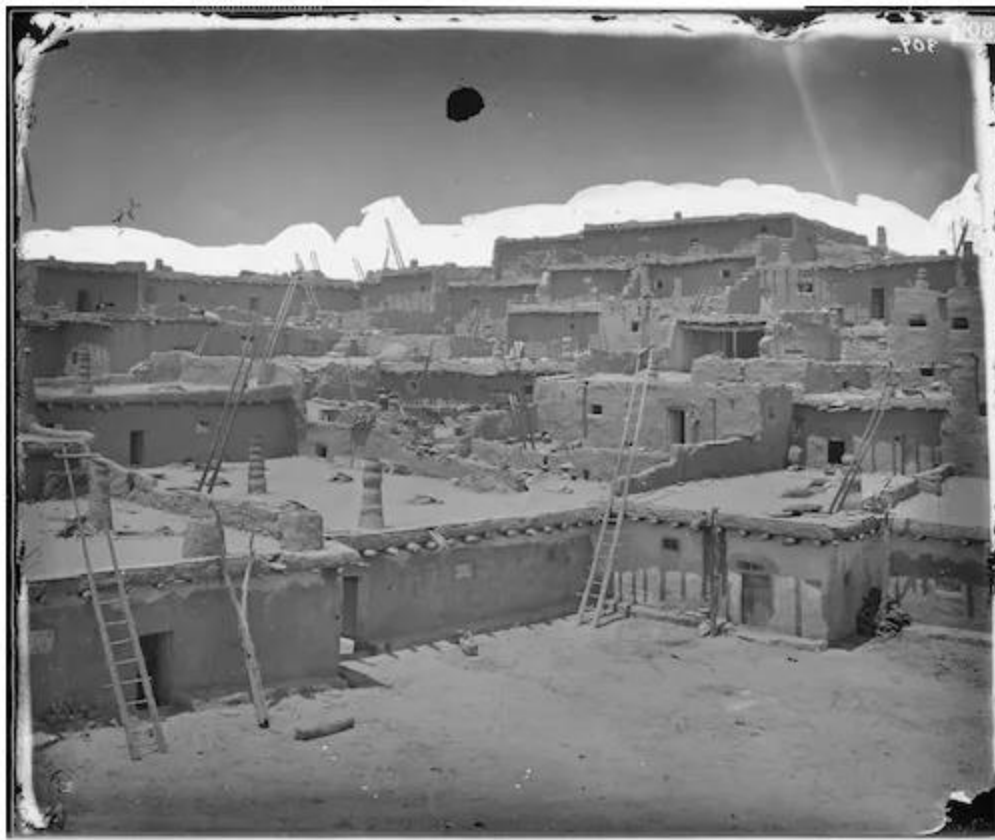
Coronado at Hawikuh



Coronado at Hawikuh

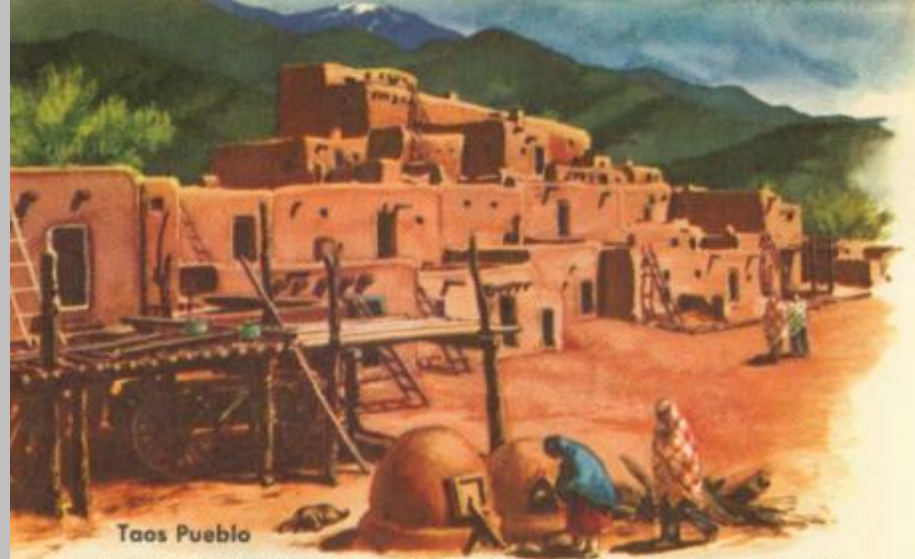






Zuni Pueblo, 1873 - This may be an approximate representation of what Hawikuh looked like in 1540.

US National Archives and Smithsonian Institute. Photographer Timothy H. O'Sullivan, 1873. Public Domain.



Taos Pueblo

MODERN PUEBLOS After the great communal dwellings were abandoned and new villages established, the rejuvenated Anasazi might have risen to a new cultural peak but for the arrival of Europeans in 1540. The Spanish exploring the Southwest found more than 70 inhabited Indian pueblos (in 1955 there were only 30). After the Spanish came, the Indians absorbed new ideas and adopted new materials including metals and livestock. In 1680 the Pueblos revolted and for 12 years were free of Spanish rule. Even today, after long domination by people of European origin, the Pueblos hold to much of their old way of life. Except for the Zuni and Hopi villages, modern Pueblos are in the Rio Grande or tributary valleys. The Indians farm irrigated lands, raise cattle, or work at a variety of jobs. Government and private agencies stimulate continuation of native arts and crafts, and many products find a tourist market. Dances and ceremonials are still practiced as religious or social observances. Visitors are welcome to the villages and to the public dances.

For more about Pueblo Indians, read *NEW MEXICO INDIANS*, Bertha P. Dutton, New Mexico Assoc. on Indian Affairs, Santa Fe, N. Mex., 1951, and *THE WORKDAY LIFE OF THE PUEBLO INDIANS*, Underhill, U.S. Indian Service, Haskell Inst., Lawrence, Kan., 1946.



Mudhead



Jewelry



Rare Basket

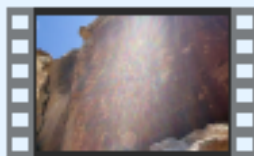
Pot

THE ZUNIS Thirty-two miles south of Gallup in the largest pueblo in New Mexico live the Zuni (ZOO-nee) people. Of the 20 known village sites, only 7 were inhabited in 1539, when Estevan-the-Moor became the first European to find and be killed by Puebloans. The next year Coronado captured the Zuni village of Hawiku, but, finding no gold, he continued eastward. After 1706 only one Zuni village was occupied. 3 Zuni villages remained.

Zunis are farmers noted for their pottery and turquoise inlay jewelry. From Europeans they learned to work iron, turning to brass and copper about 1840-1850. By 1870 they had adopted silversmithing and had learned the use of stamps and dies from Navajos. About 1890 they began to develop original techniques that led to exquisite inlay work, which they have been doing ever since. The famous Zuni Shalako ceremony held in November or December each year has become a gathering point for students, visitors, and friends of the Indians of all the Southwest.

Hopi Silver Belt





Zuni Pueblo -
Best Historical
Native
Destination -...





First Blood at Cibola

At Cibola, Coronado had his first encounter with the Pueblo world. His army was six months into the expedition and worn down from crossing a wilderness. Food was short, his porters (blacks) and Indians were desert-

ing, horses were dying of exhaustion.

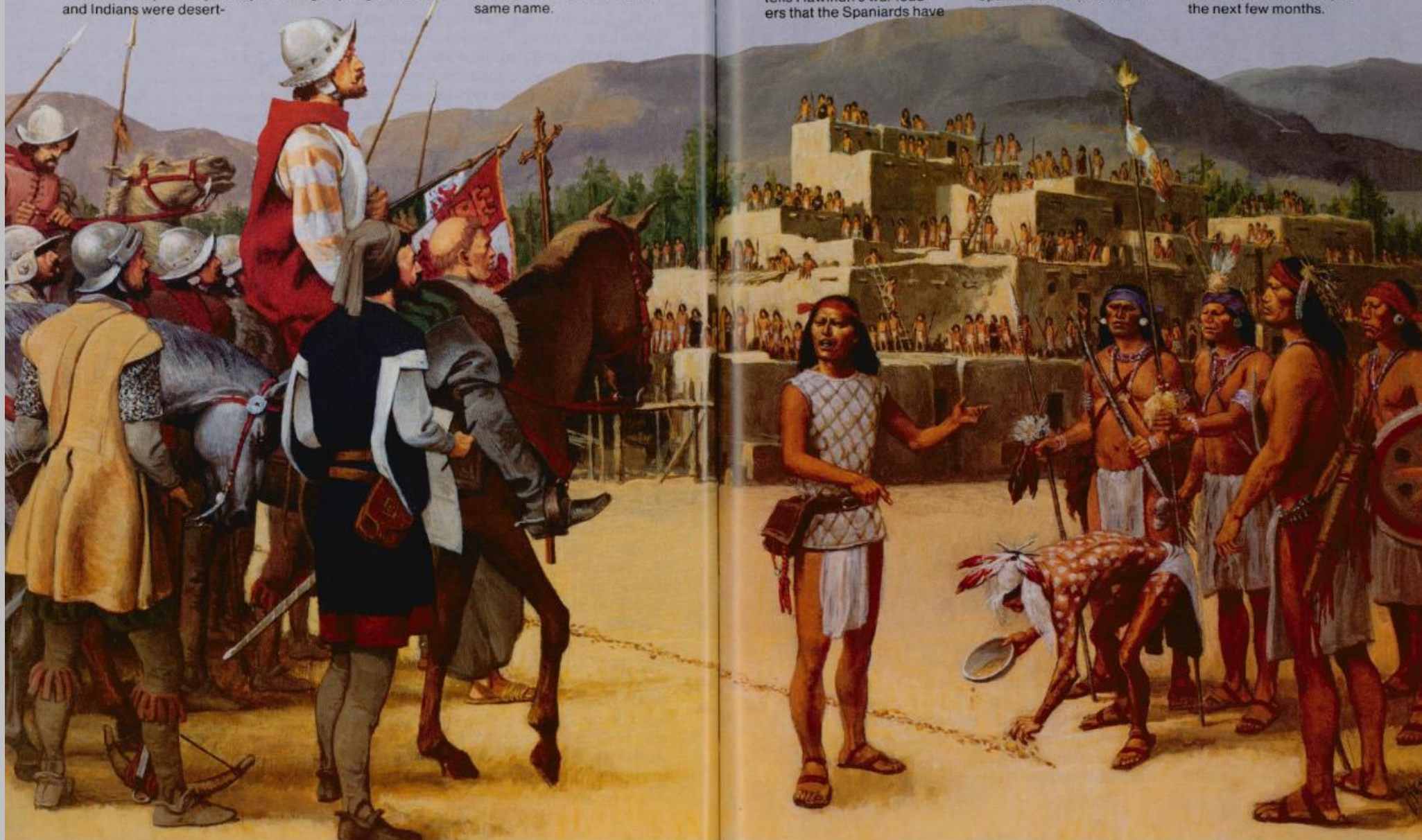
The first sight of Cibola—the legendary kingdom of the north—dismayed the Spaniards. They found not a shining city of gold but only a

mud huts stacked one atop another and a crowd of armed warriors. This was Háwikuh, western-most of a cluster of Zufii towns, now a ruin a few miles south of the present pueblo of the same name.

Wanting food, Coronado sent forward a party with an interpreter, friars, and cavalry. This is the moment illustrated by artist Louis S. Glanzman. The interpreter tells Háwikuh's war leaders that the Spaniards have

come to claim the country for King and Savior and wish them no harm. The Indians pay this no attention. An elder draws a line of sacred corn meal in the sand. The Spaniards hesitate. Arrows

fly. The army storms the village. Soon a dozen Indians lie dead while the rest flee. The famished soldiers break into the stores. Peace follows and this pueblo becomes Coronado's base camp for the next few months.



When encountering new peoples, the conquistadors were supposed to read (and have translated) a legal document, the “*Requerimiento*.” This had been prepared by well-meaning lawyers back in Spain.

The summons itself was a lengthy document that traced a chain of authority from God to the pope and on to the Spanish sovereign, the expedition's captain general, and finally each reader of the *requerimiento*. Then it offered the indigenous listeners a single future, as vassals of the Spanish king and adherents of the Catholic faith, and two roads to that future: peaceful submission or the compulsion of war.



The central demand was phrased this way: “We ask and require...that you acknowledge the Church as the ruler and superior of the whole world, and the high priest called Pope, and in his name the king and queen...our lords, in his place, as superiors and lords and kings of these islands and this mainland.”

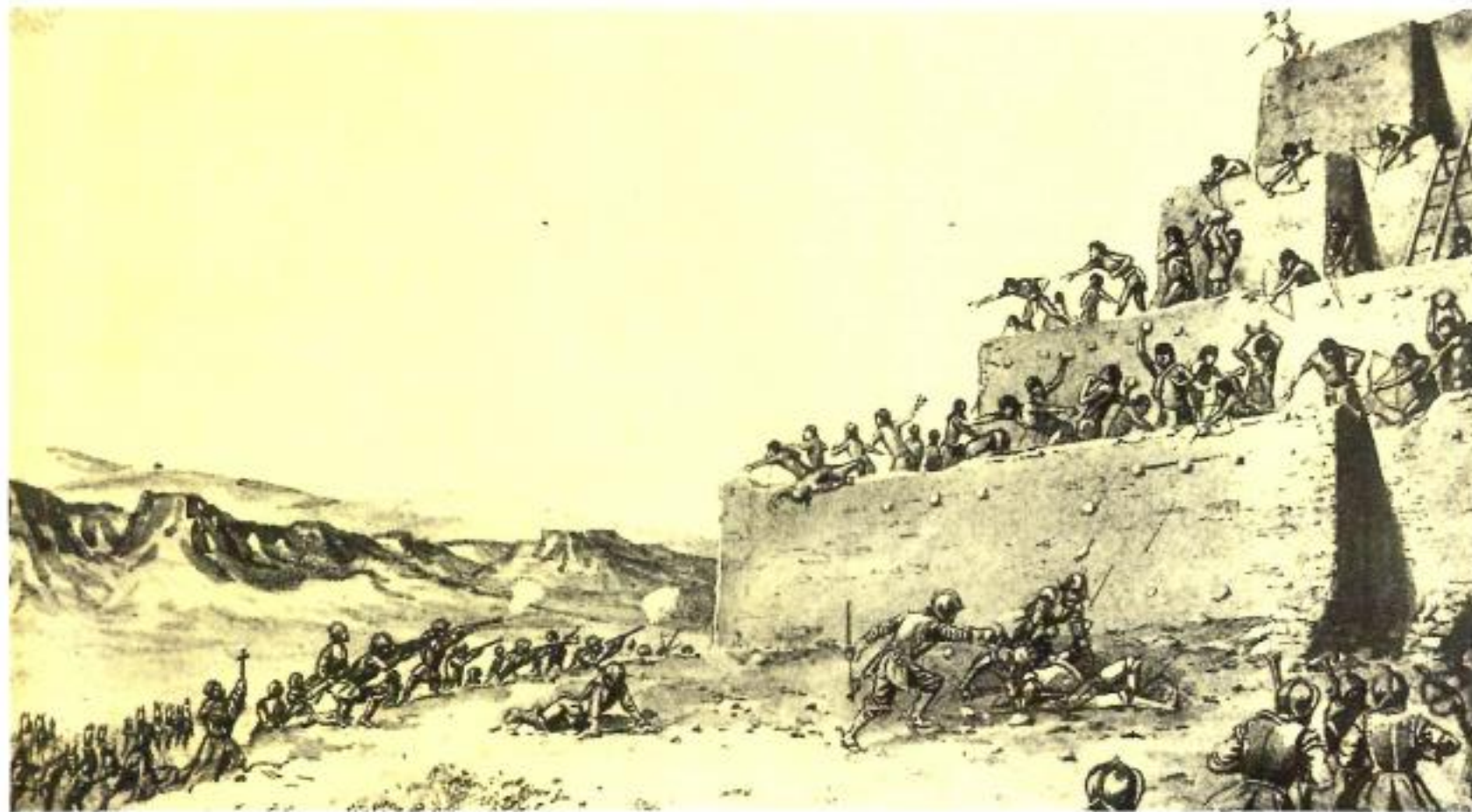
Bartolome de las Casas, the famous defender of the Indians, said upon reading this that he did not know whether to laugh or cry.

Coronado at Cibola





MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO IMAGES BOTH PAGES



The Summer of 1540: Archaeology of the Battle of Hawikku

Jonathan E. Damp, Zuni Cultural Resource Enterprise

THE VILLAGE SITE OF HAWIKKU is located in west-central New Mexico on the Zuni Indian Reservation. By the early 1500s, the Spaniards had taken control over much of Mexico and were extending their aspirations northward with tales of unimaginable riches. Hawikku was the destination of the early Spanish conquistadors seeking the legendary Seven Cities of Cibola. This colonization led to one of the first battles between indigenous peoples and European armies in the United States.

Zuni Cultural Resource Enterprise (or ZCRE) has been engaged in a study of the encounter between Coronado and the Zuni people at Hawikku in 1540. ZCRE proposed the study to determine the location and extent of the battle and to attempt to view the conflict from the perspective of a Zuni cultural landscape onto which the Spaniards intruded. The National Park Service and the American Battlefield Protection Program have supported this endeavor, and Don Blakeslee and his crew from Wichita State University, Kansas, provided able assistance. Blakeslee and Jay Blaine, an avocational archaeologist, helped to identify historic artifacts. Our study was divided into four components. First, we examined historic documents. Second, we conducted a three-stage metal detection survey on the perimeter of Hawikku. The next phase incorporated these data into a geographical information system (GIS). The final analytical component has been to identify historic artifacts and to discern their patterning in space with GIS technology.

On July 7, 1540, Coronado and his army appeared at the gates of Hawikku, after following trade routes from northern Mexico. Encountering Zunis in the days before

his arrival at the pueblo, the army engaged in an initial skirmish 6 to 12 miles southwest of Hawikku. Following that altercation, Coronado led his army onto a plain that lies immediately south of Hawikku. They were met there by hundreds of Zuni warriors.

The skirmish on the plain caused the Zunis to retreat behind the walls of Hawikku. Coronado then ordered the

artillery to fire, apparently with little effect, and led an attack on Hawikku by surrounding the village and attempting to enter it via the passages into the pueblo. The Zunis ultimately fled Hawikku to seek shelter elsewhere, near present-day Zuni Pueblo. Coronado and his troops took control of the pueblo and occupied it for several months.

The Hawikku battlefield study documented the location and extent of the battle of Hawikku and discerned patterns in artifact location that represent actions taken during the battle and subsequent occupation of Hawikku by the Spaniards and their allies.

The metal-detection surveys on the edges of the pueblo found evidence of 167 metal artifacts. Some of these items were determined to have been associated with the later Spanish mission at Zuni, and others were found to be recent objects.

Probably the most revealing artifact class is caret-head horseshoe nails, diagnostic of the Coronado Expedition. At Hawikku, the nails are distributed on the western edge of the site with some clusters near passageways that permitted access to the interior portions of the pueblo. We believe that when the Spanish army began to breach the walls of Hawikku, some of their horses lost the caret-head nails from their horseshoes. The distribution of these nails suggests that the Spanish attack was on the pueblo's more



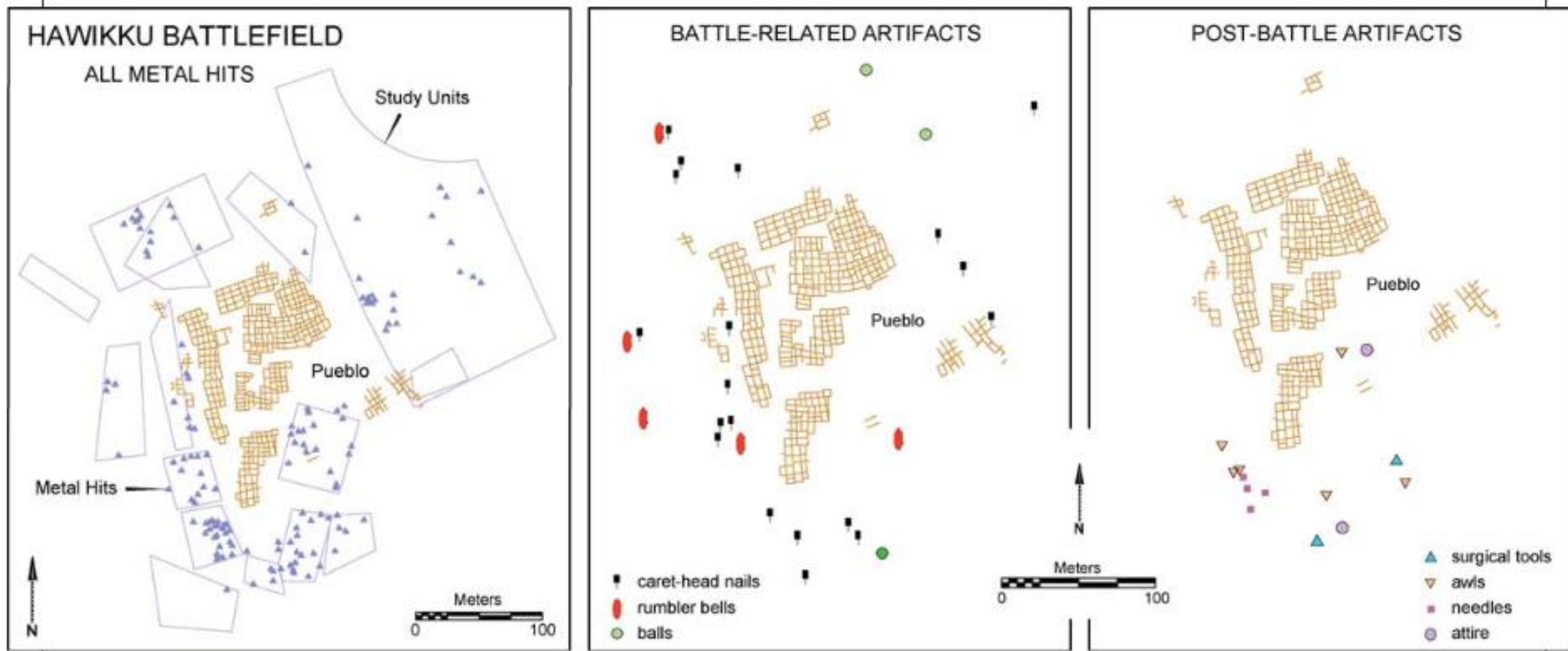
JERRY BLAKESLEE
2002

The ruins of the ancestral Zuni pueblo of Hawikku, where Coronado at last reached the fabled Cibola on July 7, 1540.



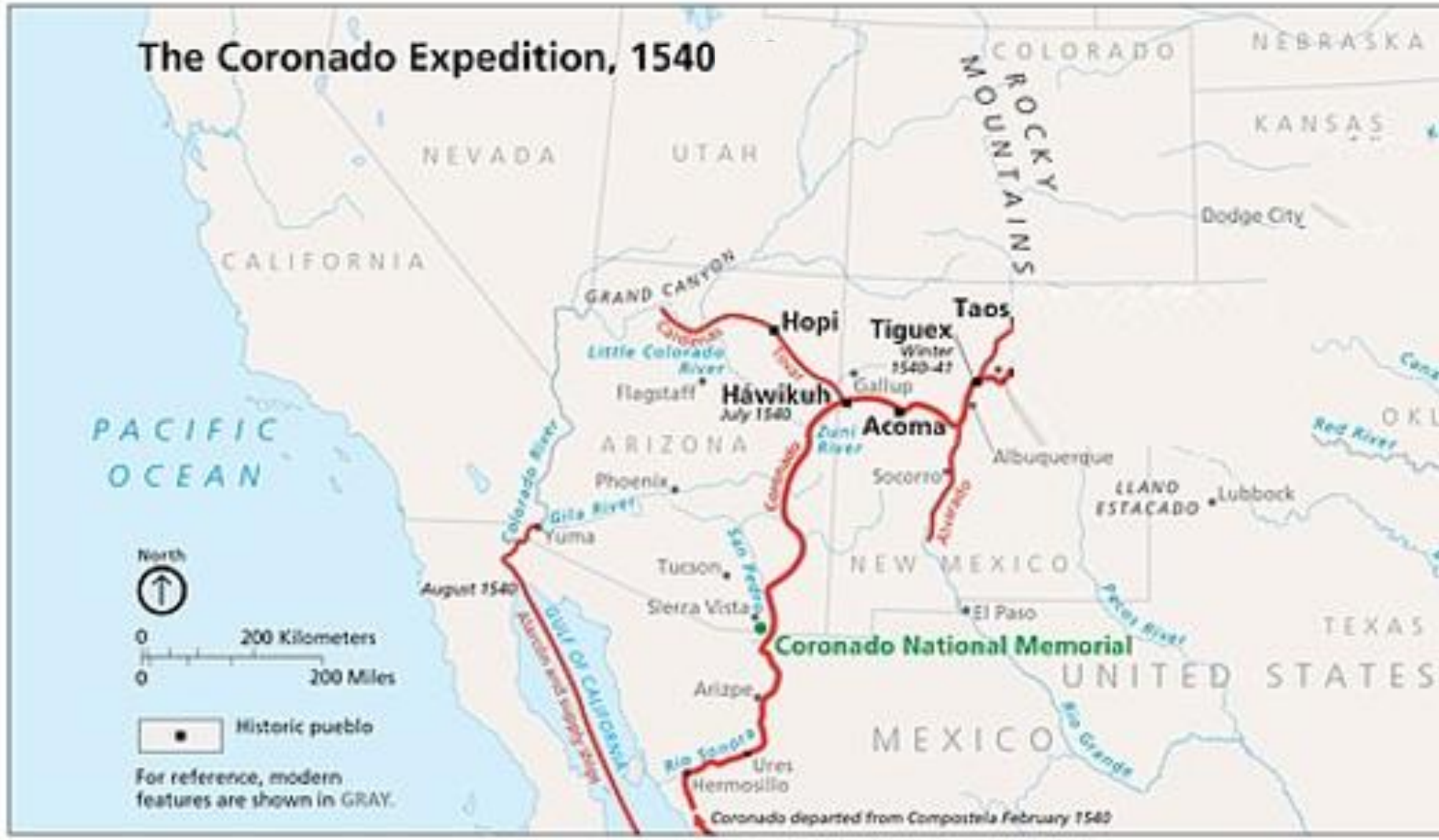
Chip Colwell-Chanthaphonh

Top: The Coronado entrada is the only known Spanish expedition in the Southwest to have used boltheads—iron and copper crossbow points (photograph courtesy of Palace of the Governors Collections, Santa Fe, New Mexico). Bottom: Chevron beads, such as these, could help scholars locate the Coronado trail.



Using metal detectors and GIS technology to locate metal artifacts related to the Coronado Expedition, archaeologists have been able to define the extent of the battlefield at Hawikku.

The Coronado Expedition, 1540



0 200 Kilometers
0 200 Miles

● Historic pueblo

For reference, modern features are shown in GRAY.

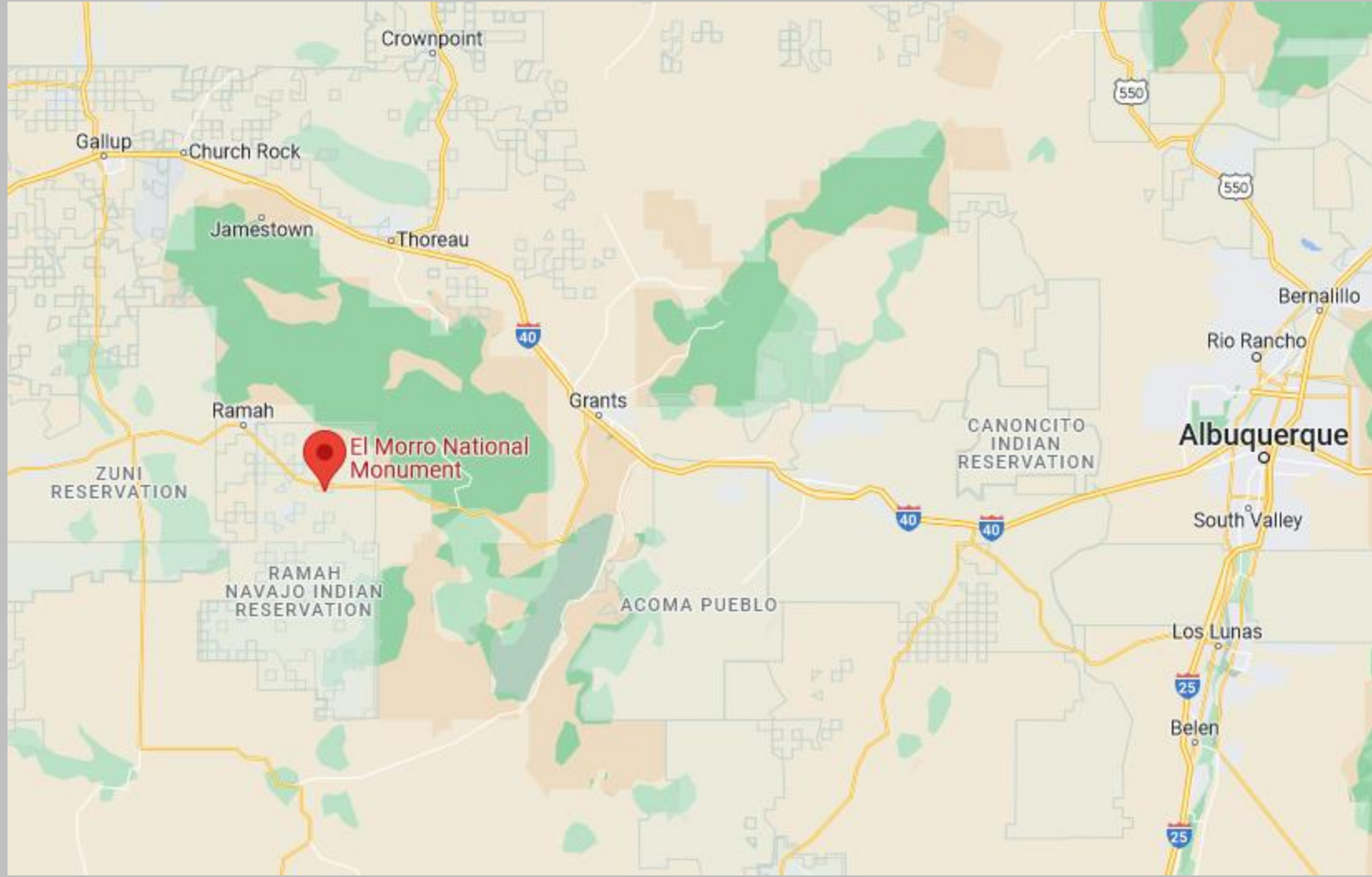
Coronado departed from Compostela February 1540

Hawikuh archaeology

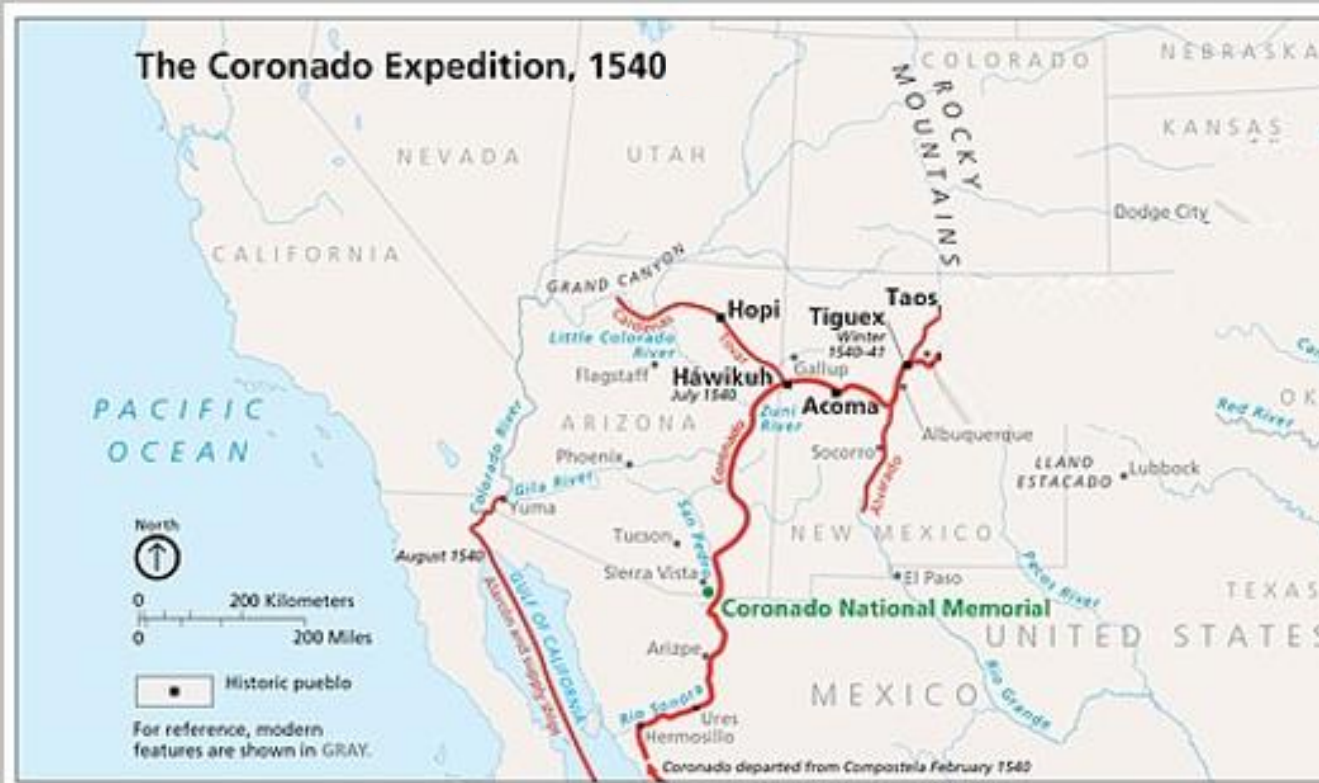


Dowa Yalanne (Zuni: "Corn Mountain") is a steep mesa 3.1 miles (5 km) southeast of the present Pueblo of Zuni, on the Zuni Indian Reservation. Plainly visible from the Zuni Pueblo, the mesa is located in McKinley County, New Mexico,^[3] and has an elevation of 7,274 feet (2,217 m). The mesa is a sacred place for the Zuni people, who fled to the mesa top to escape the Coronado expedition in 1540, and it is closed to outside visitors.

Dowa Yalane



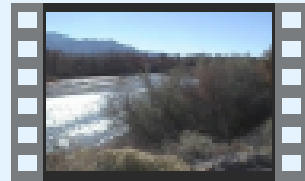
El Morro



Nevertheless, shortly after he wrote his letter to the viceroy, Vázquez de Coronado dispatched Melchior Díaz and Juan Gallego southward with the report to Mendoza and instructions to Tristán de Luna y Arellano at San Gerónimo to bring the bulk of the remainder of the expedition on to Cibola. Reunited, the full expedition would find out what it could about the peoples and settlements of the rest of Tierra Nueva. These two decisions, to search farther and to call up the remainder of the expedition, were not the captain general's alone but were made in collaboration with a *junta* of leading members of the expedition.

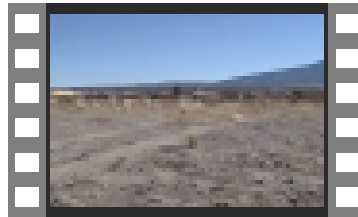
Next week: de Soto

...then, Coronado in 1541



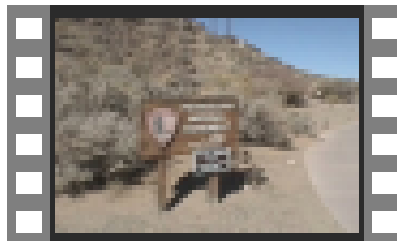
5 Tiguex---Kuaua
and the Rio
Grande pueblos



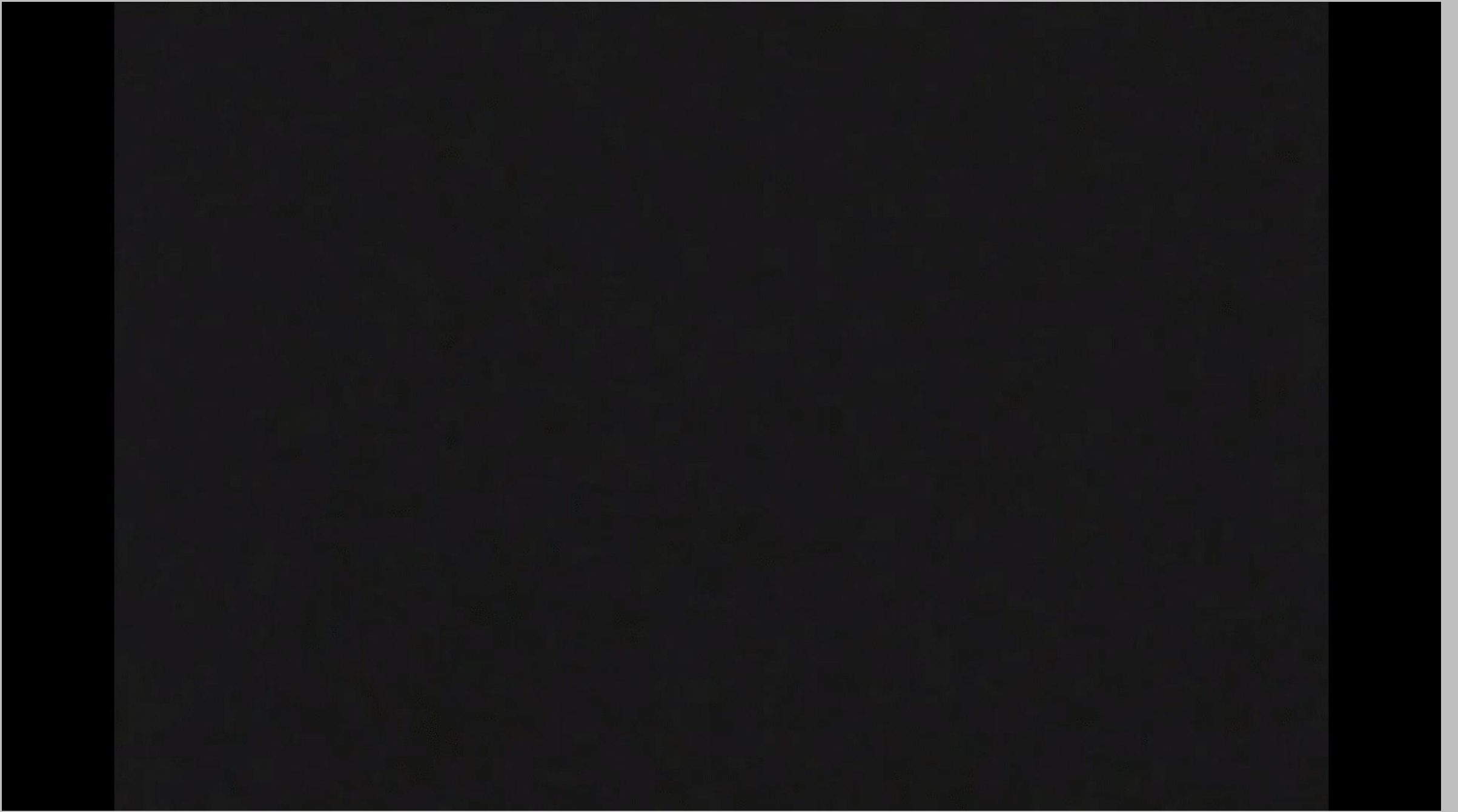


6 Coofor, the
Bernalillo site





**7 Petroglyph
National
Monument**





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