

America's Ancient Chiefdoms

7

Coronado in Tiguex and beyond,
1540-41



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





or reference, modern
 lacenames are shown in
 ITALY
 dashed lines indicate
 uncertain routes.



Timeline

1440-60

The Portuguese explore coast of Africa

1492

Moors defeated in Spain; Columbus lands in New World

1497

Vasco da Gama sails to India by way of Africa

1513

Ponce de León claims Florida for Spain

1519-21

Magellan's fleet sails around the world

1521

Cortés conquers the Aztecs

1528

Narváez attempts a colony in Florida

1529-36

The wanderings of Cabeza de Vaca

1532

Pizarro overthrows the Incas of Peru

1539-43

De Soto expedition

1540-42

Coronado expedition

1542-43

Cabrillo's voyage

1562

French Huguenots settle in Florida

1565

Menendez establishes St. Augustine

1584

Raleigh plants colony on North Carolina coast

1598

Oñate expedition into Southwest

1607

English settle at Jamestown

1620

Pilgrims settle at Plymouth

First Expeditions North

1539

1540

1541

1542

1543

De Soto

Lands in Florida in late May; marches through upper Florida; major battle at Napiyuca; guerrilla war with Apalachees; winter camp at Anhaica (Tallahassee)

Following Indian trails, expedition swings in a wide arc through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Alabama, encountering major chiefdoms. Bloody battle at Mabila (central Alabama) in October

Winters among ancestral Chickasaw Indians of Mississippi and suffers attack by them; crosses Mississippi in May; travels in great loop through Arkansas; discovers buffalo hunters and a people who live in scattered houses and not in villages; endures severe winter at Autiamque

Reaches the rich chiefdom of Anilco; at nearby Guachoya, De Soto sends out scout parties who find nothing but wilderness; De Soto dies, is succeeded by Moscoso. After fruitless wandering in east Texas, Moscoso retraces route to Anilco

Winter camp at Aminoya on Mississippi; survivors—half the original number—build boats to float downriver; in September, they reach Pánuco River, in Mexico

Coronado

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.

Journeys to Quivira (Kansas). Winters at Tiguex; puts down an Indian revolt.

The army departs for home in April, arrives in Mexico City in mid-summer. Coronado reports to Viceroy Antonio de Mendoza on expedition, resumes his governorship of Nueva Galicia. Months later Coronado is tried for mismanagement of expedition but acquitted.

Cabrillo

Accompanies an exploring expedition up the northwest coast as Alarcón's second in command

Gathers a new exploring fleet for Mendoza.

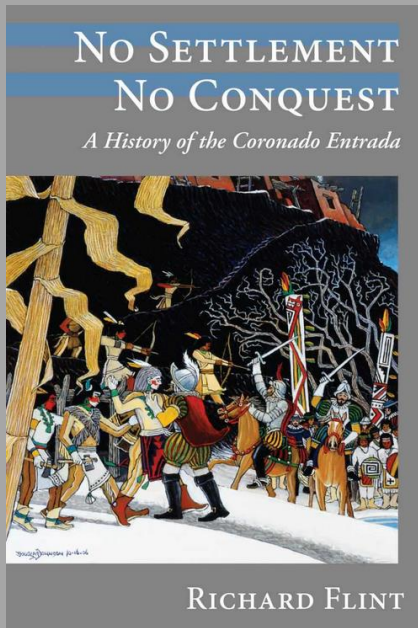
Dispatched by Mendoza to continue exploration of the northwest.

January 3: Dies on San Miguel Island (Channel Islands).

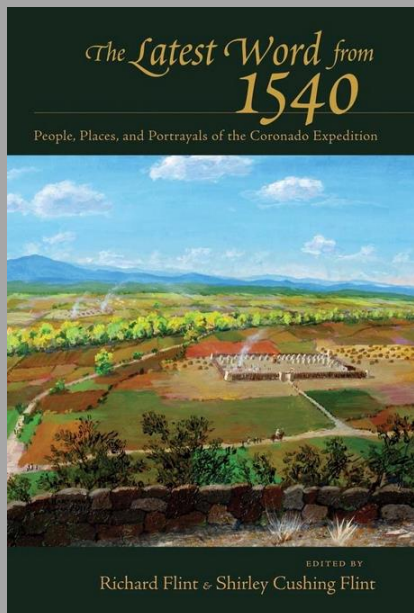
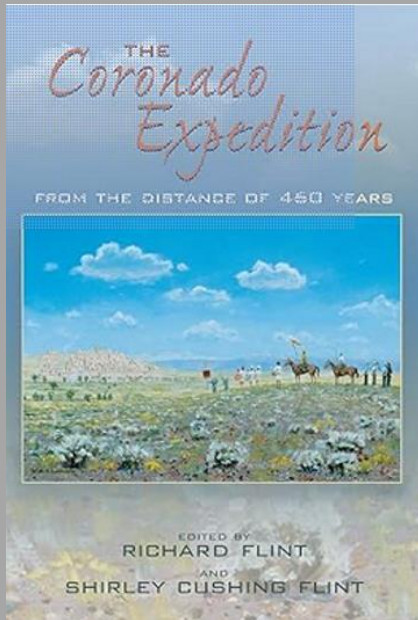


Richard Flint and Shirley Cushing Flint

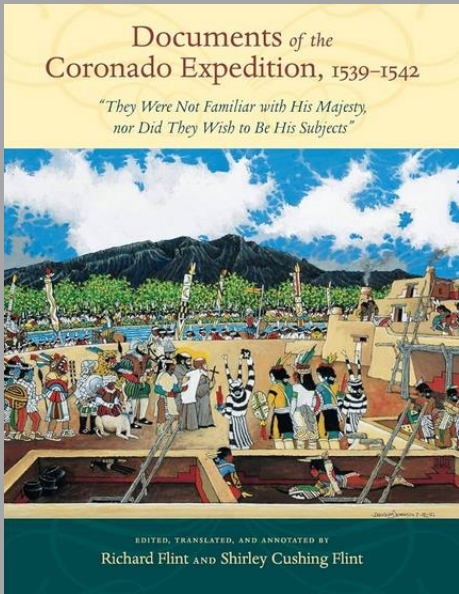
Best single narrative



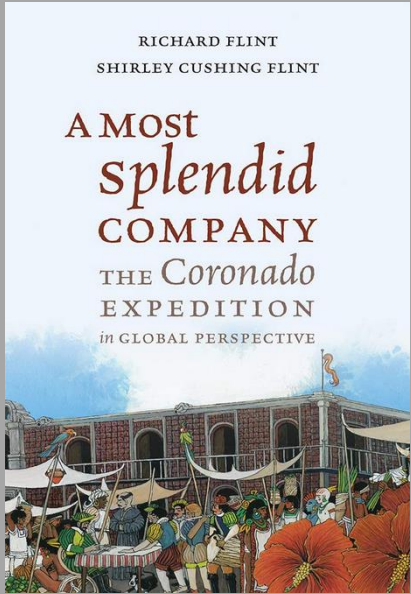
Two good essay collections, by Flints and others

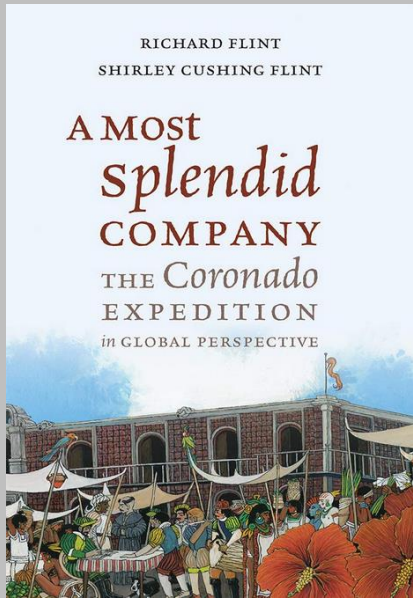


Primary source materials translated



...and a Coronado encyclopedia!





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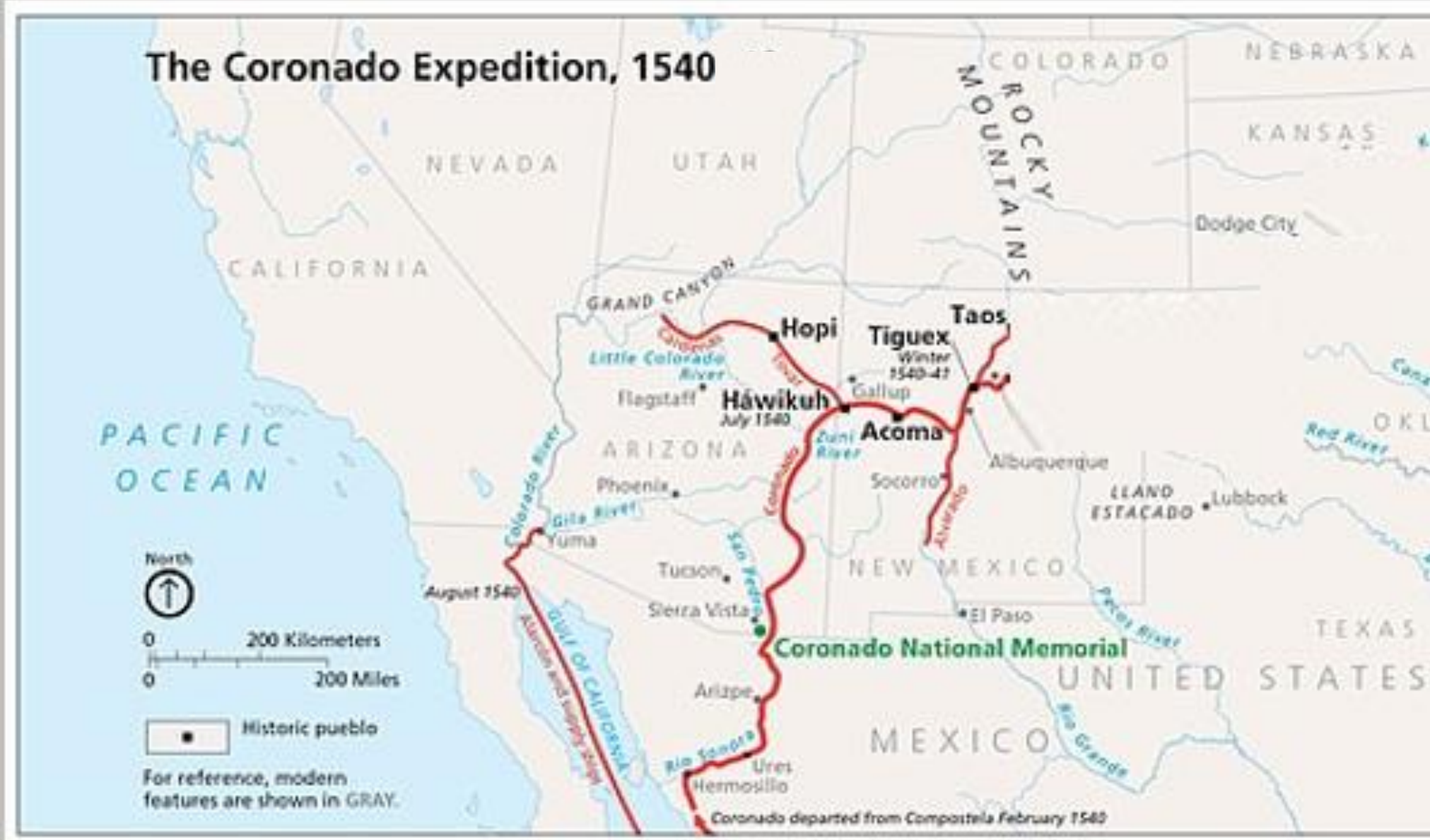
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The Coronado Expedition, 1540



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!

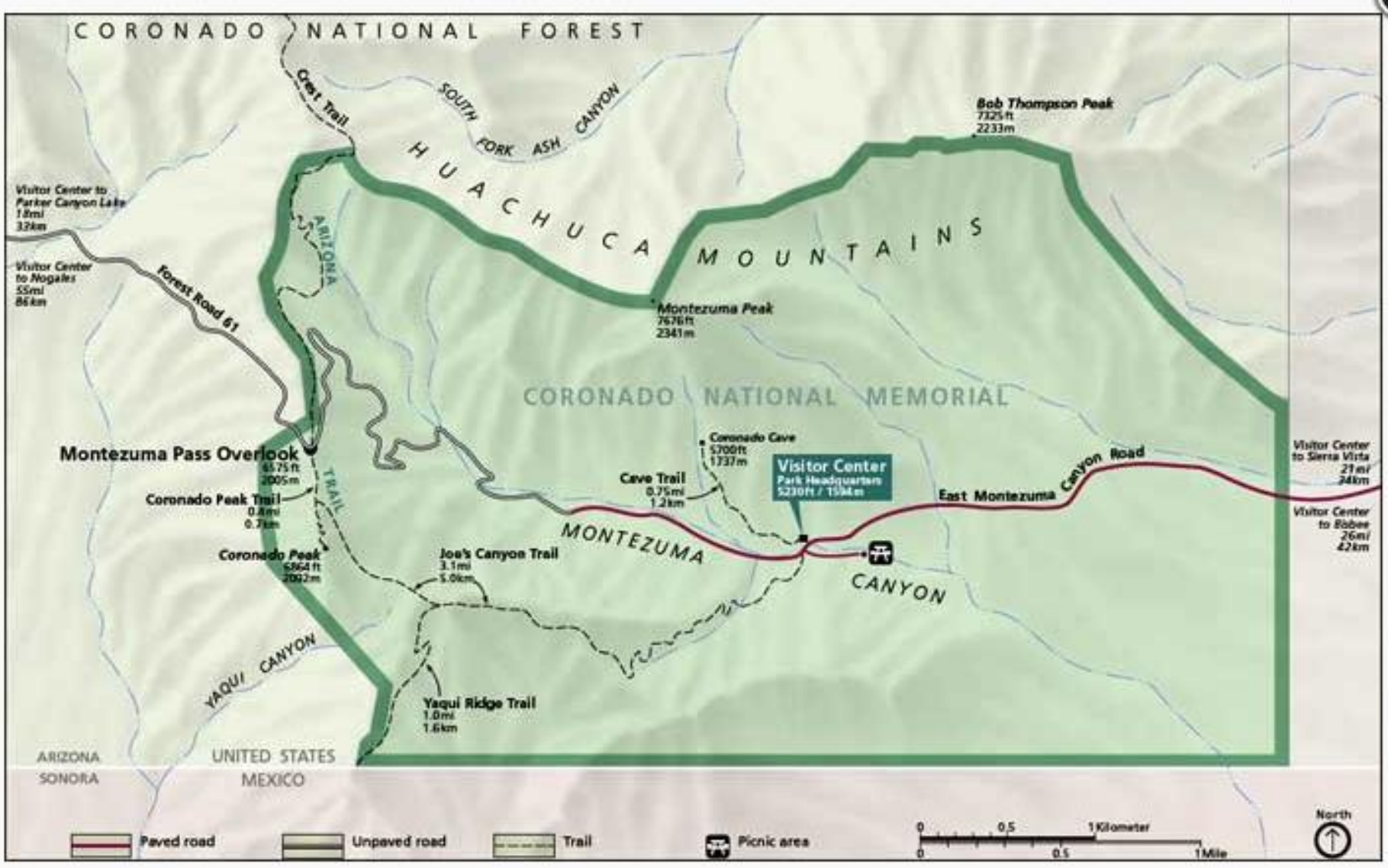


Coronado

National Memorial
Arizona



NPS photo





Coronado in the San Pedro Valley

Coronado en el Valle de San Pedro



Setting out from Mexico in a "gilded suit and helmet with crested plume," Coronado led a force of more than 1,000. Imagine the spectacle as they marched into this valley—nearly 340 Spanish soldiers and more than 700 Indian allies and slaves, burdened with livestock and supplies.

Partiendo de México con un "armadura dorada y un casco con pluma crestada," Coronado lideraba un ejército de más de 1,000 hombres. Imagina el espectáculo al verlos caminar en este valle—casi 340 soldados españoles y más de 700 aliados indígenas y esclavos, todos compartiendo el peso de llevar ganado y provisiones.



A Timeless Landscape

The San Rafael Valley, extending to the distant peaks before you, has barely changed since the Coronado Expedition passed near here in 1540–1542. The international border with Mexico is off toward the horizon, although the boundary is difficult to see.

Un Paisaje Eterno

El Valle de San Rafael, que abarca hasta los picos distantes frente a ti, ha permanecido prácticamente sin cambio desde que pasó por aquí la Expedición Coronado en 1540–1542. La frontera internacional con México se observa en el horizonte, aunque es difícil de ver.

International Boundary
Limite Internacional

Sierra Madre Mountains
Montañas Sierra Madre

Patagonia Mountains
Montañas Patagonia

Baboquivari, sacred peak
of the O'odham people

Baboquivari, pico sagrado
de la cultura O'odham

Lone Mountain
Montaña Solitaria









WARNING

Smuggling and/or illegal entry is common in this area due to the proximity of the international border.

Please be aware of your surroundings at all times and do not travel alone in remote areas.



Report suspicious persons and/or activities to the National Park Service.
Dial 1-800-637-9152.

DE DICHADO · A · LA · MEM-
 ORIA · DE · LA · EXPE-
 DITION · VASQUEZ · CO-
 RONADO · 1539 · 1542

A · LA · AMISTAD · QUE
 EXISTE · ENTRE · ESTA
 NACION · Y · LA · REPUBLICA
MEXICANA · Y · A

AQUELLOS · CIUDADANOS
 DE · ORIGEN · ESPAÑOL
 O · MEXICANO · QUIENES
 HAN · TOMADO · PARTE

SUMAMENTE · IMPOR-
 TANTE · EN · ESTA ·
 REGION · Y · EN · LA · NACION
 ENTERA

HACEN · QUATRO · SIGLOS · QUE · PASARON · POR · AQUI · VASQUEZ · CORONADO · Y · SUS · COMPAÑEROS ;
 LAS · HUELLAS · DE · SU · PASADA · SON · FIRMAMENTE · ENGRABADAS · EN · ESTA · TIERRA



DE DICHADO · TO · THE
 MEMORY · OF · THE
 CORONADO · EXPEDIT-
 ION · 1539 · 1542

TO · THE · EXISTING
 FRIENDSHIP · BETWEEN
 THIS · NATION · AND · THE
 REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

AND · TO · THOSE
UNITED STATES
 CITIZENS OF SPANISH
 OR MEXICAN · ORIGIN

WHO · HAVE · PLAYED · A
 HIGHLY · IMPORTANT
 PART · IN · THE
 SOUTHWEST
 & · IN · THE · ENTIRE · NATION

FOUR · CENTURIES · HAVE · GONE · BY · SINCE · CORONADO · AND · HIS · COMPANIONS · PASSED · HERE · ; · THE
 IMPRINTS · OF · THEIR · PASSING · ARE · GRAVEN · DEEP · INTO · THIS · LAND · DON · PERCEVAL · DELA

What Did Coronado Carry? ¿Qué llevaba consigo Coronado?

You may have brought water and other provisions on your hike today. Coronado, too, prepared for his journey into unfamiliar territory. Among his personal possessions were 23 horses for transportation and several suits of armor for protection. Some commanders carried crossbows, chain mail, swords, and extra clothing. Blacksmiths and other tradesmen took tools for making repairs along the way. Pack animals hauled vital stores, while as many as 6,000 cattle, sheep, and goats provided the expedition with a few months' worth of meat.

Probablemente trajiste agua y otras provisiones para tu caminata. Coronado también vino preparado para su travesía en este territorio desconocido. Entre sus posesiones personales se encontraban 23 caballos para transporte, y varias armaduras para protección. Algunos comandantes cargaban arcos, cotas de malla, espadas, y ropa extra. Herreros y otros comerciantes llevaban herramientas para hacer reparaciones en el camino. Además, llevaban animales de carga con suplementos vitales, y cerca de 6,000 cabezas de ganado, ovejas y cabras que proveían a la expedición con algunos meses de carne.



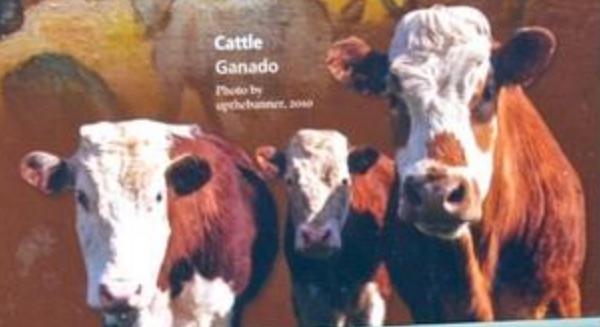
Pointed morion (helmet)
Morrión Puntigudo (casco)
NPS

Dagger
Daga
NPS



O'odham water jar
Jarra de agua O'odham
National Museum of the American Indian,
Smithsonian Institution

Cattle
Ganado
Photo by
upthehammer, 2010





Coronado arrives at Cibola



From Hawikuh, Coronado sent a small reconnaissance force under Hernando de Alvarado eastward, to see what peoples and communities were there. Alvarado's men (or the main force following later) were the first Europeans to see the remarkable site of El Morro.

Between Cíbola and Tiguex

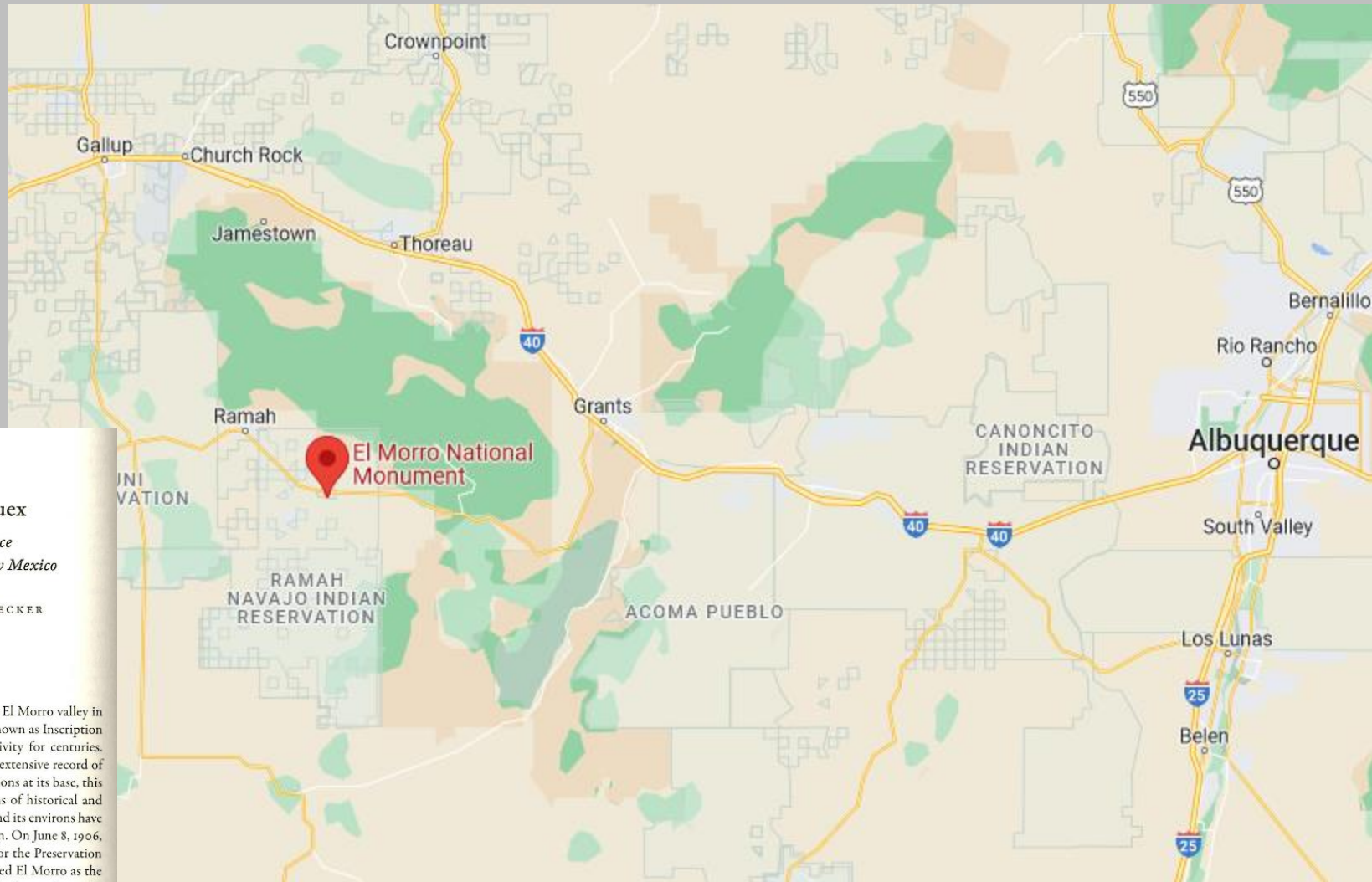
*A Vázquez de Coronado Presence
at El Morro National Monument, New Mexico*

CLAY MATHERS AND CHARLES HAECKER

Introduction

Rising some two hundred feet from the floor of the El Morro valley in west-central New Mexico, the sandstone promontory known as Inscription Rock has been a focus of historic and prehistoric activity for centuries. With two late prehistoric pueblos at its summit and an extensive record of Pueblo IV-period petroglyphs and later historic inscriptions at its base, this location has similarly been a focal point for generations of historical and archaeological research.¹ In addition, Inscription Rock and its environs have a special significance with respect to historic preservation. On June 8, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt signed into law An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities and shortly thereafter established El Morro as the nation's second national monument.² More than a hundred years later, the importance of that decision has been amplified by the discovery of archaeological materials indicating that El Morro was visited by the first major European entrada into the American Southwest, the largest Spanish-led exploration ever to enter this region, the 1539–42 expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado.

The identification of a Vázquez de Coronado presence at El Morro National Monument took place as the result of a small-scale research project the National Park Service, Heritage Partnerships Program in Santa Fe, New



El Morro

Alvarado was also the first to see and report on the pueblo of Acoma, high on its mesa.



He then proceeded to visit the Rio Grande valley with its numerous pueblos. The name of one of them, Tiguex, was also applied to the entire region.

The Coronado Expedition, 1540

The reconnaissances which Coronado sent out gradually brought him a fairly complete picture of the Pueblo country so that, from their reports, he could visualize what lay to the west and north and east.

From Acoma, Alvarado reached the main group of Pueblo tribes in the Upper Rio Grande Valley. Here the cultivable area was wide and the land near the river fertile. The numerous villages of the Tiguex district (the name of the principal pueblo as well) proved very attractive and the people well disposed.¹⁵ From there he reached Pecos at the eastern edge of the Pueblo area.

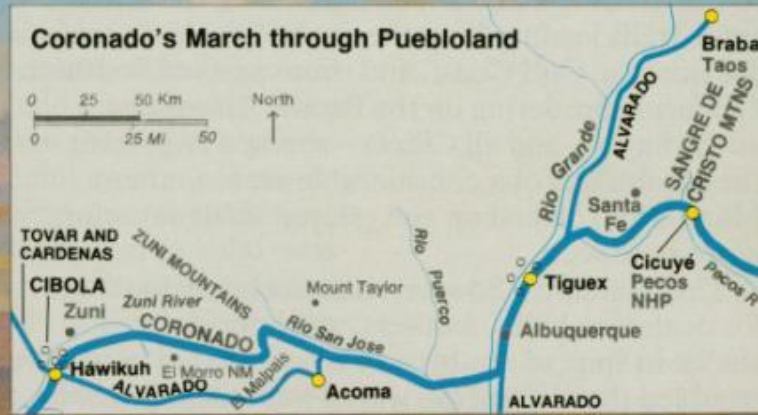


To Pecos and Beyond

Marching from Cibola to Pecos, Alvarado's soldiers saw Puebloland in the morningtide 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

with drums and flutes and plied the soldiers with clothing and turquoise (but the women kept hidden). The

record is clear that when the intruders came peacefully, first encounters were not always hostile.



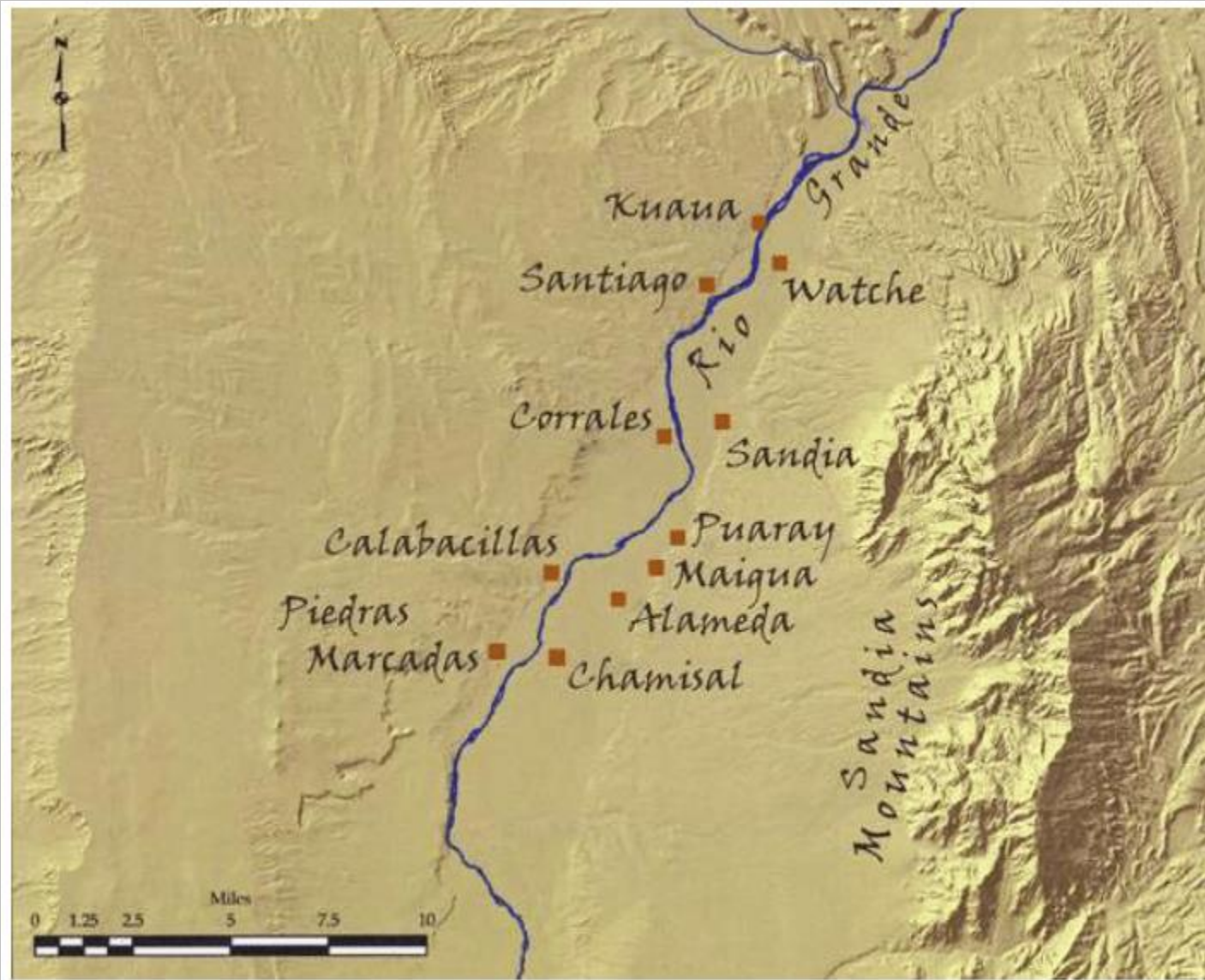


Nevertheless, shortly after he wrote his letter to the viceroy, Vázquez de Coronado dispatched Melchior Díaz and Juan Gallego southward with the report to Mendoza and instructions to Tristán de Luna y Arellano at San Gerónimo to bring the bulk of the remainder of the expedition on to Cibola. Reunited, 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.

The Coronado Expedition, 1540

By late autumn of 1540, the entire expedition was assembling in the Tiguex area, where it would spend the winter.

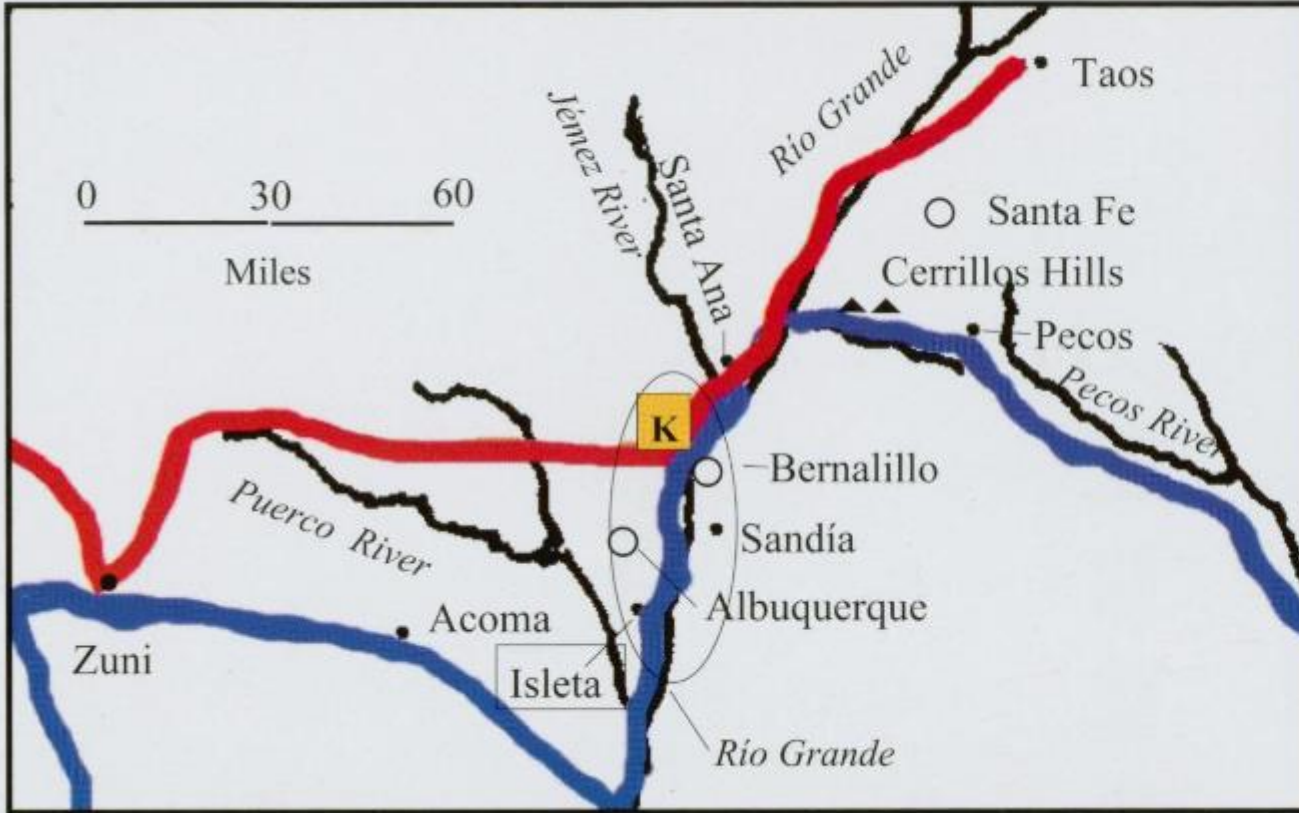






Map of the Tiguex Province, north of present-day Albuquerque NM, showing locations of eleven of the reported "twelve towns." The twelfth town is likely Isleta Pueblo, about 20 miles south of Piedras Marcadas (map by author).



Routes Followed by the Coronado Expedition in New Mexico, 1540-41



Legend

-  Coronado's Main Army
-  Reconnaissance Units



Kuaua



Indian Pueblo



Cerrillos Hills



Municipality, 2002



Tiguex Province

Map after Carroll L. Riley, *Rio del Norte. People of the Upper Rio Grande From Earliest Times to the Pueblo Revolt.* Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1995.





“This Nuestra Senora river (Rio Grande) flows through a broad valley planted with fields of maise. There are some cottonwood groves. There are twelve pueblos.”

Hernando de Alvarado - 1540

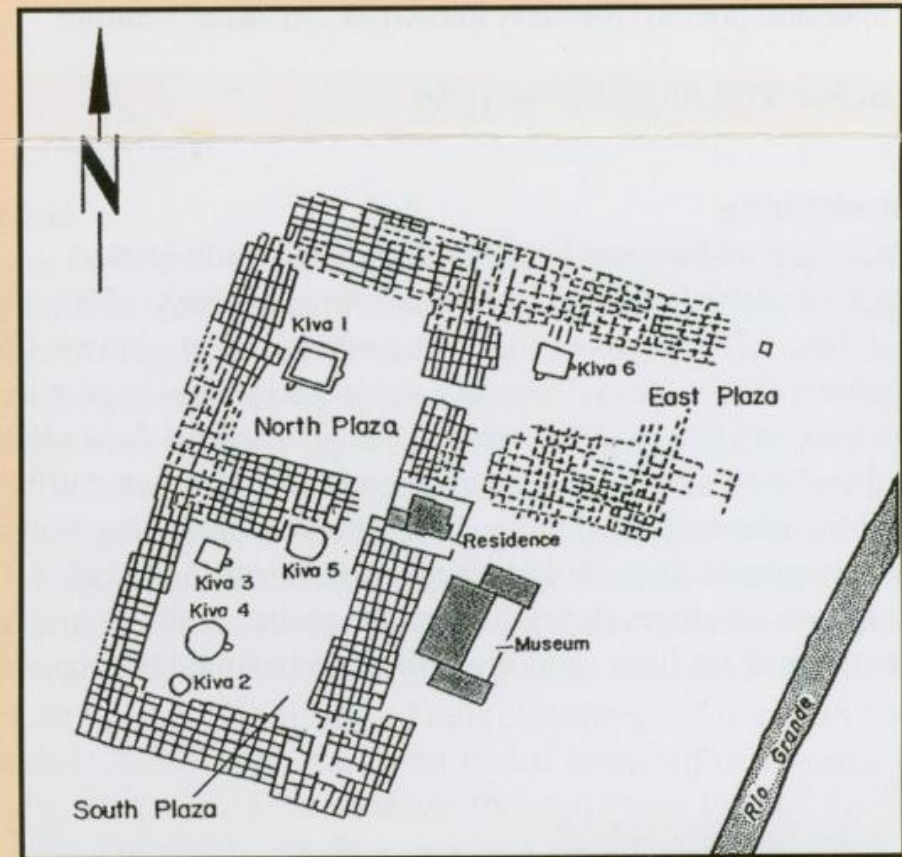
“The river is almost as wide as that of Seville, although not so deep; it flows through a level country; the water is good; it contains some fish; it rises in the north. . . the river freezes so thick that loaded animals cross it, and it would be possible for carts to do so.”

“Tiguex is a province of twelve pueblos, on the banks of a large and mighty river. Some of the pueblos are on one bank, some on the other. It is a spacious valley two leagues wide. To the east there is a snow - covered sierra, very high and rough.”

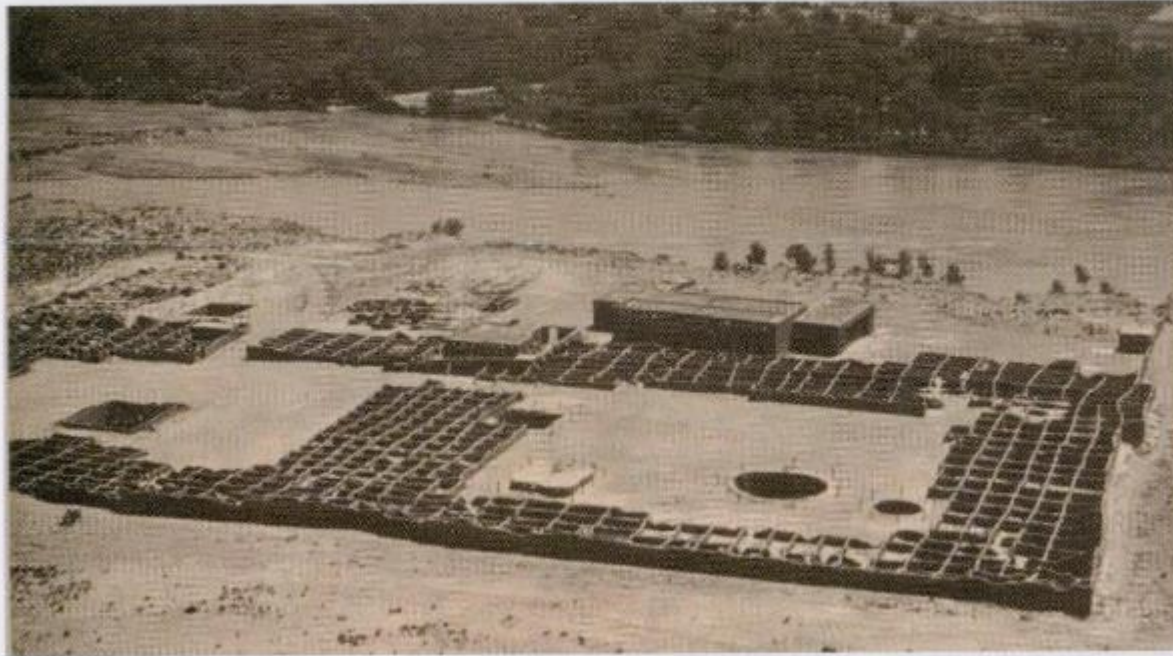
Pedro de Castaneda - 1540

The Spanish Conquistadors occupied one of the pueblos in the Tiguex Province during the winters of 1540-41 and 1541-42. This pueblo, Kuaua, is believed to be the northernmost village of the Tiguex Province, and it was undoubtedly visited by the Spanish.

At first the Tigua people welcomed the visitors and submitted to their demands for food, shelter and clothing. However, demands of the army became unbearable. The Tiguas staged a desperate revolt against the Spanish invaders in the winter of 1540-41. The results were disastrous for the pueblo people. Two villages were destroyed and many of the people killed.



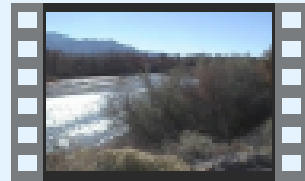
Museum of New Mexico— Museum of Indian Arts and Culture/Laboratory of Anthropology, ARMS, site files, LA187
Schematic drawing of Kuaua from “Test Excavations at Kuaua Pueblo (LA 187)” by Bradley J. Vierra



Coronado State Monument (reconstruction of Kuaua), about 1940.
Photograph courtesy New Mexico Department of Tourism.

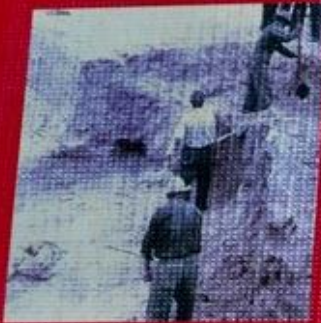
The village built here 700 years ago was named after the sacred evergreen, Kuaua (*koo na wa*). The villagers spoke the Tiwa language as the people in some of the other towns along the river. Today, Tiwa is spoken at Isleta, Sandia, Picuris, and Taos Pueblos.

Taos Pueblo, 1915 at left



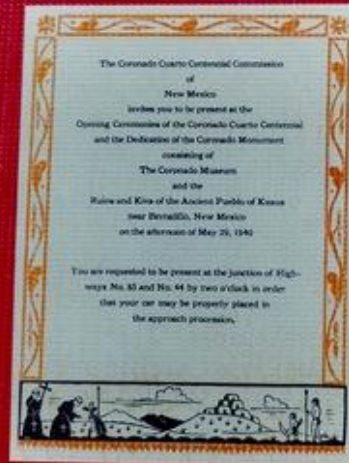
5 Tiguex---Kuaua
and the Rio
Grande pueblos

Was Coronado Ever at Kuauua?



Workers from the Works Project Administration, a New Deal Program, excavating the ruins of Kuauua in the 1930s.

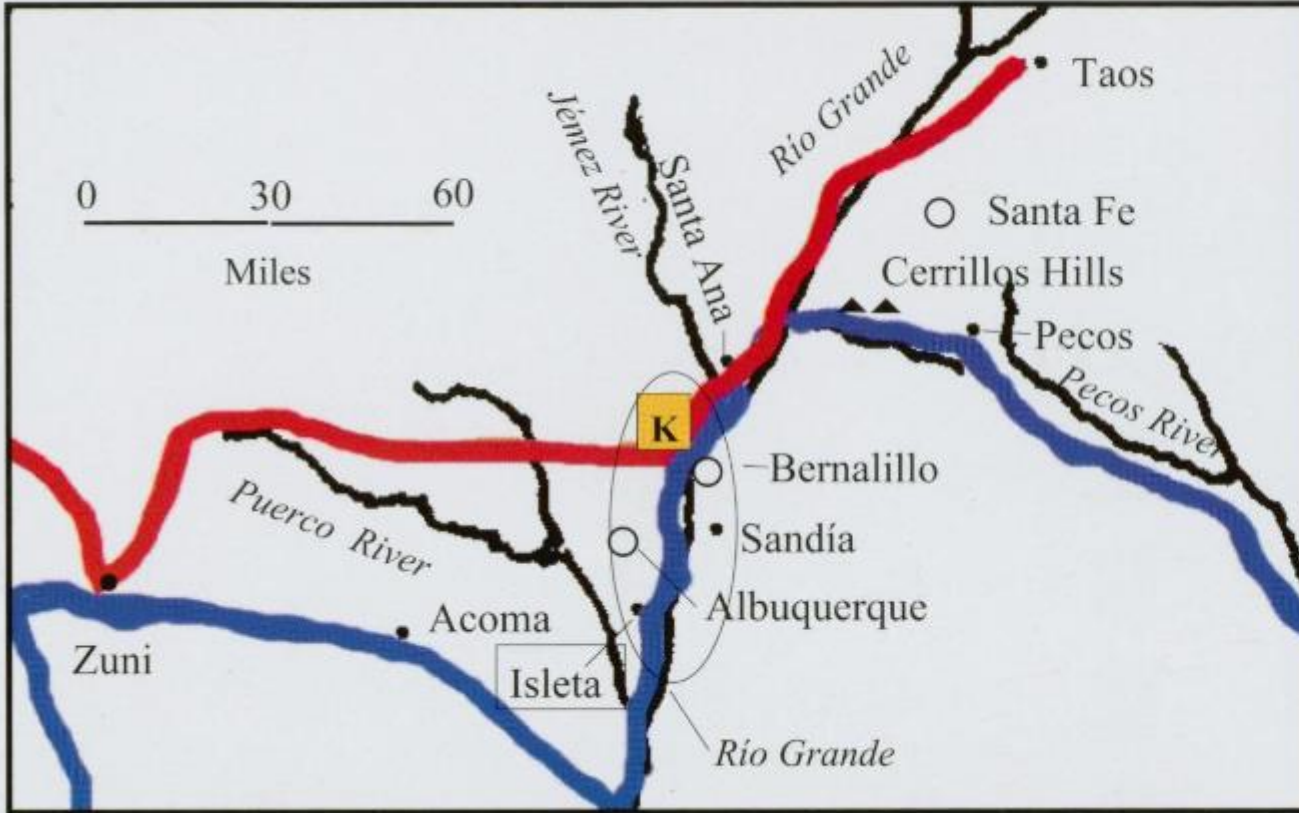
Marketing for the opening of Coronado Monument in 1940 as tied into the Coronado Cuarto Centennial Commission.





This question motivated the original excavations of the pueblo during the New Deal Era. Dr. Edgar Lee Hewett, the lead archaeologist, was confident that Kuauua was the location where Francisco Vázquez de Coronado's entrada encamped during the winter of 1541. Ultimately, the discovery of the kiva murals shifted the excavation's focus to preserving and maintaining these invaluable paintings. The site was named Coronado State Monument (now Coronado Historic Site) and opened in 1940 for the 400th anniversary of Coronado's expedition. While no evidence of the Spanish was found during the original excavations of the 1930s, the site was named after the conquistador in order to interpret relations between Europeans and Puebloans.

Generously funded by the Friends of Coronado and Jemez Historic Sites.

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-  Reconnaissance Units



Kuaua



Indian Pueblo



Cerrillos Hills



Municipality, 2002



Tiguex Province

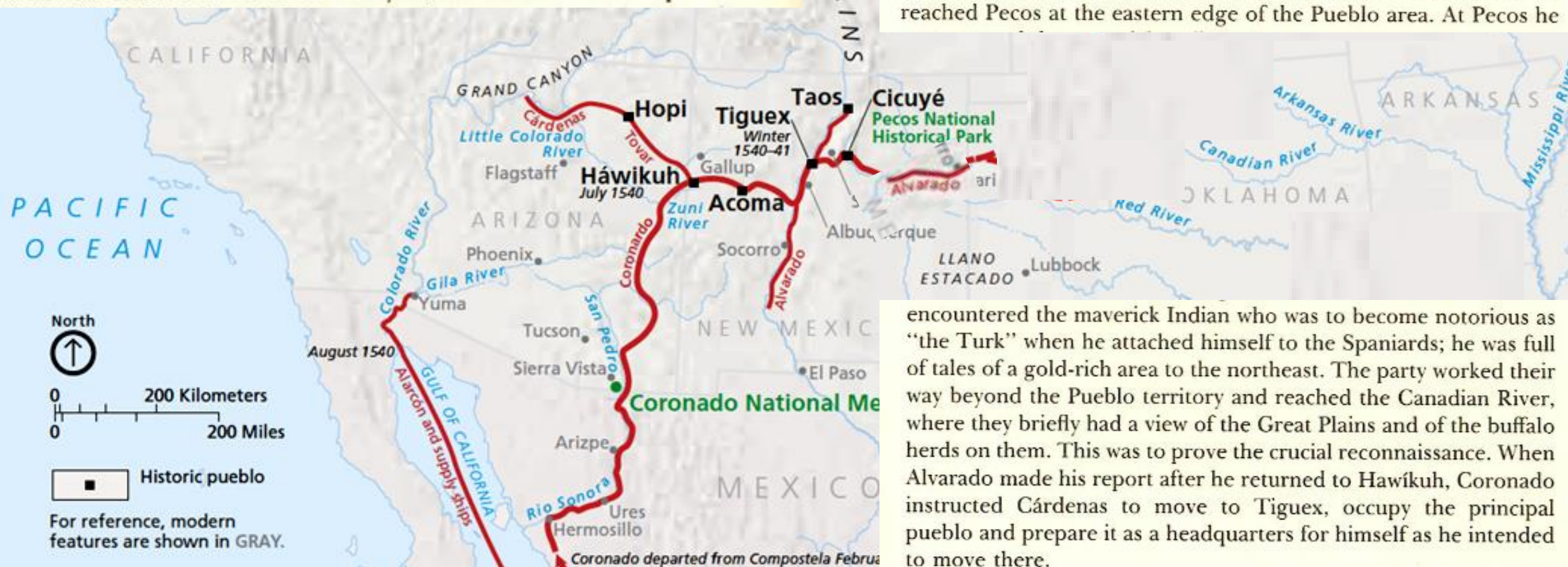
Map after Carroll L. Riley, *Rio del Norte. People of the Upper Rio Grande From Earliest Times to the Pueblo Revolt.* Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1995.



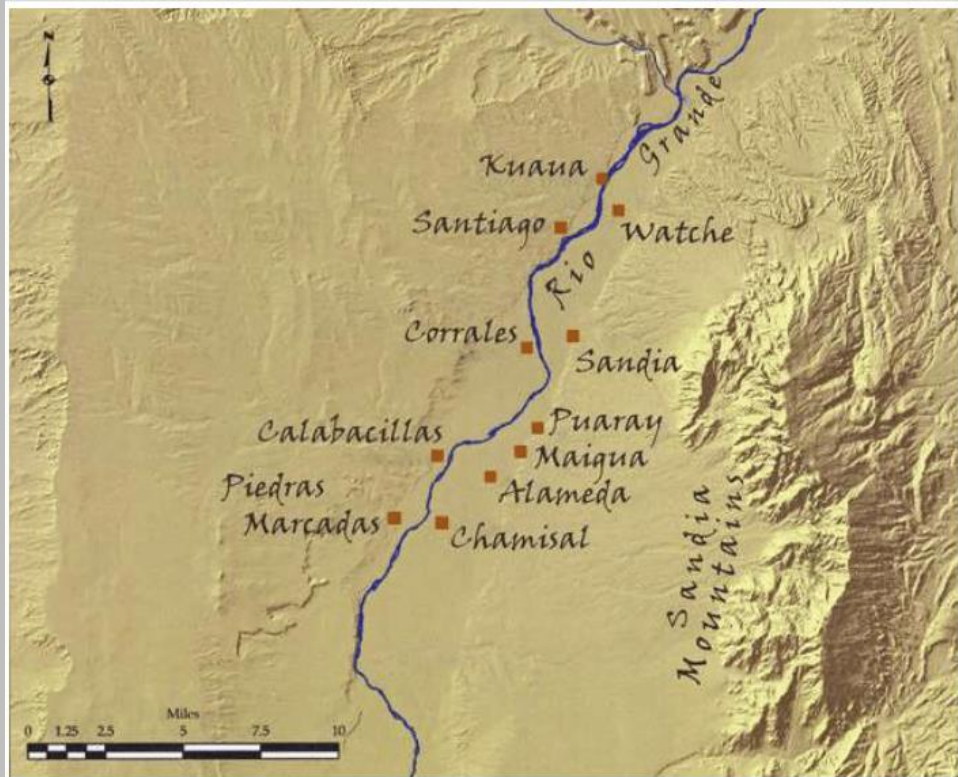
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From Acoma, Alvarado reached the main group of Pueblo tribes in the Upper Rio Grande Valley. Here the cultivable area was wide and the land near the river fertile. The numerous villages of the Tiguex district (the name of the principal pueblo as well) proved very attractive and the people well disposed.¹⁵ From there he reached Pecos at the eastern edge of the Pueblo area. At Pecos he



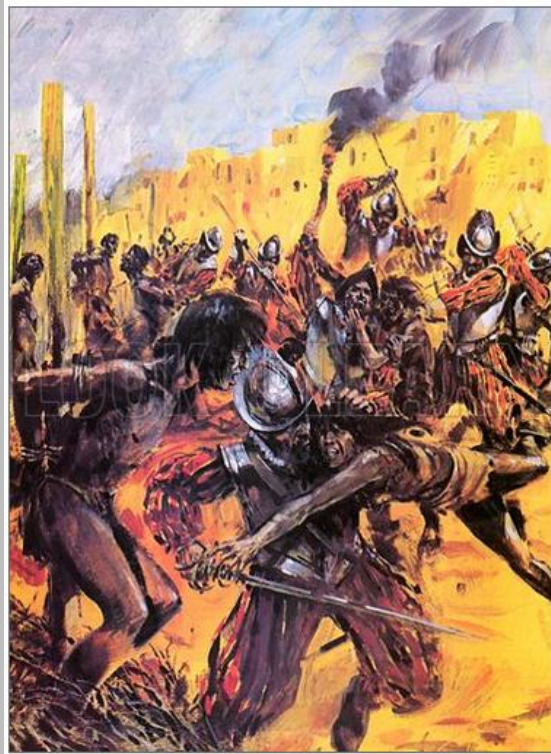
encountered the maverick Indian who was to become notorious as “the Turk” when he attached himself to the Spaniards; he was full of tales of a gold-rich area to the northeast. The party worked their way beyond the Pueblo territory and reached the Canadian River, where they briefly had a view of the Great Plains and of the buffalo herds on them. This was to prove the crucial reconnaissance. When Alvarado made his report after he returned to Hawíkuh, Coronado instructed Cárdenas to move to Tiguex, occupy the principal pueblo and prepare it as a headquarters for himself as he intended to move there.



Map of the Tiguex Province, north of present-day Albuquerque NM, showing locations of eleven of the reported "twelve towns." The twelfth town is likely Isleta Pueblo, about 20 miles south of Piedras Marcadas (map by author).

The Expedition arrived in need of food, shelter, and warm clothing. They sometimes bartered for what they needed, but often just took it. They appropriated the village of Coofor, near modern Bernalillo, forcing its residents to leave. Their livestock grazed in the Tiguex fields, consuming dry corn stalks needed by the Tiguex for winter fuel. Inevitably, a Spanish soldier assaulted a Pueblo woman, wife to a Tiguex man. The Tiguex had been pushed to their limit and violence ensued.

For three months, winter weather permitting, the Spanish and Tiguex fought. Spanish tactics were to react to any provocation with immediate, fierce violence. The Tiguex barricaded themselves in their villages, firing arrows from loop holes or the roofs of their multi-storied dwellings. The Spanish and their Mexican Indian auxiliaries would attack, scaling the walls to reach the roof tops, setting fires to drive the Tiguex into the open, where they were easy prey for Spanish cavalry. The superior weapons, horses, and overwhelming numbers of the Spanish army preordained their victory. Many Tiguex men were killed in battle; women and children were enslaved.



Tiguex War

Part of Expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado



Coronado's march - Colorado by Frederic Remington shows the march of Coronado east from Tiguex Province to the Great Plains

Date	December 1540 – March 1541 (4 months)
Location	Tiguex Province, Viceroyalty of New Spain (present-day Bernalillo, NM) 35.309444°N 106.551944°W﻿ / ﻿
Result	Spanish victory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of the Tiwa villages • Southern Tiwan peoples move out of the Middle Rio Grande Valley and into defensive mountain settlements

Belligerents

12 Southern Tiwa Pueblos	✗ Expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado
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Commanders and leaders

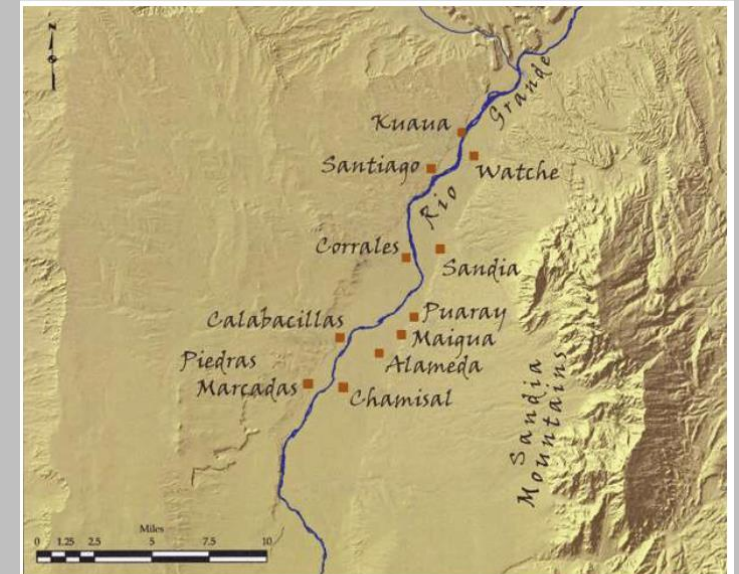
Xauían †	✗ Francisco Vázquez de Coronado
	✗ García López de Cárdenas

Strength

50 or so men per village	350 Spanish men-at-arms 2,000 Mexican Indian allies 350 servants and followers
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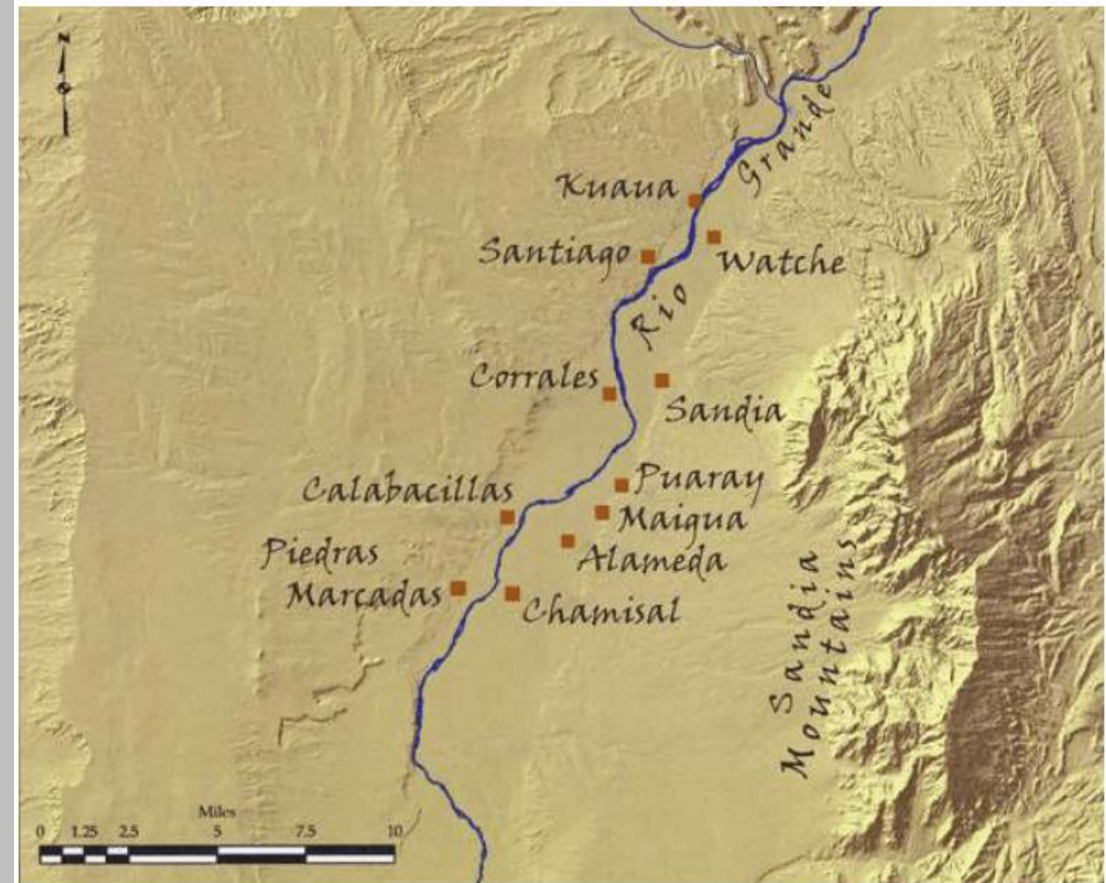
Casualties and losses

Hundreds killed, executed, or wounded	Small number of Spanish and Mexican fighters killed Over 100 wounded
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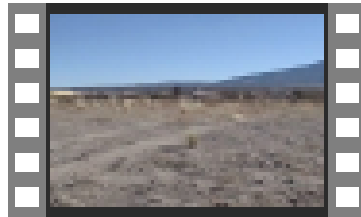


Map of the Tiguex Province, north of present-day Albuquerque NM, showing locations of eleven of the reported "twelve towns." The twelfth town is likely Isleta Pueblo, about 20 miles south of Piedras Marcadas (map by author).

By March of 1541, the warfare between Spanish and Tiguex known to historians as the Tiguex War was over. Hundreds of Tiguex had been killed, along with a smaller number of Spanish and Mexican soldiers. Many Tiguex villages had been burned or abandoned. Native resistance had accomplished little, the Spanish remained in control. The Tiguex, reduced in numbers, many living in the mountains away from their homes, now fully understood the implacable foe in their midst.

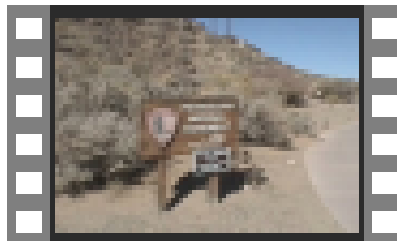


Map of the Tiguex Province, north of present-day Albuquerque NM, showing locations of eleven of the reported "twelve towns." The twelfth town is likely Isleta Pueblo, about 20 miles south of Piedras Marcadas (map by author).

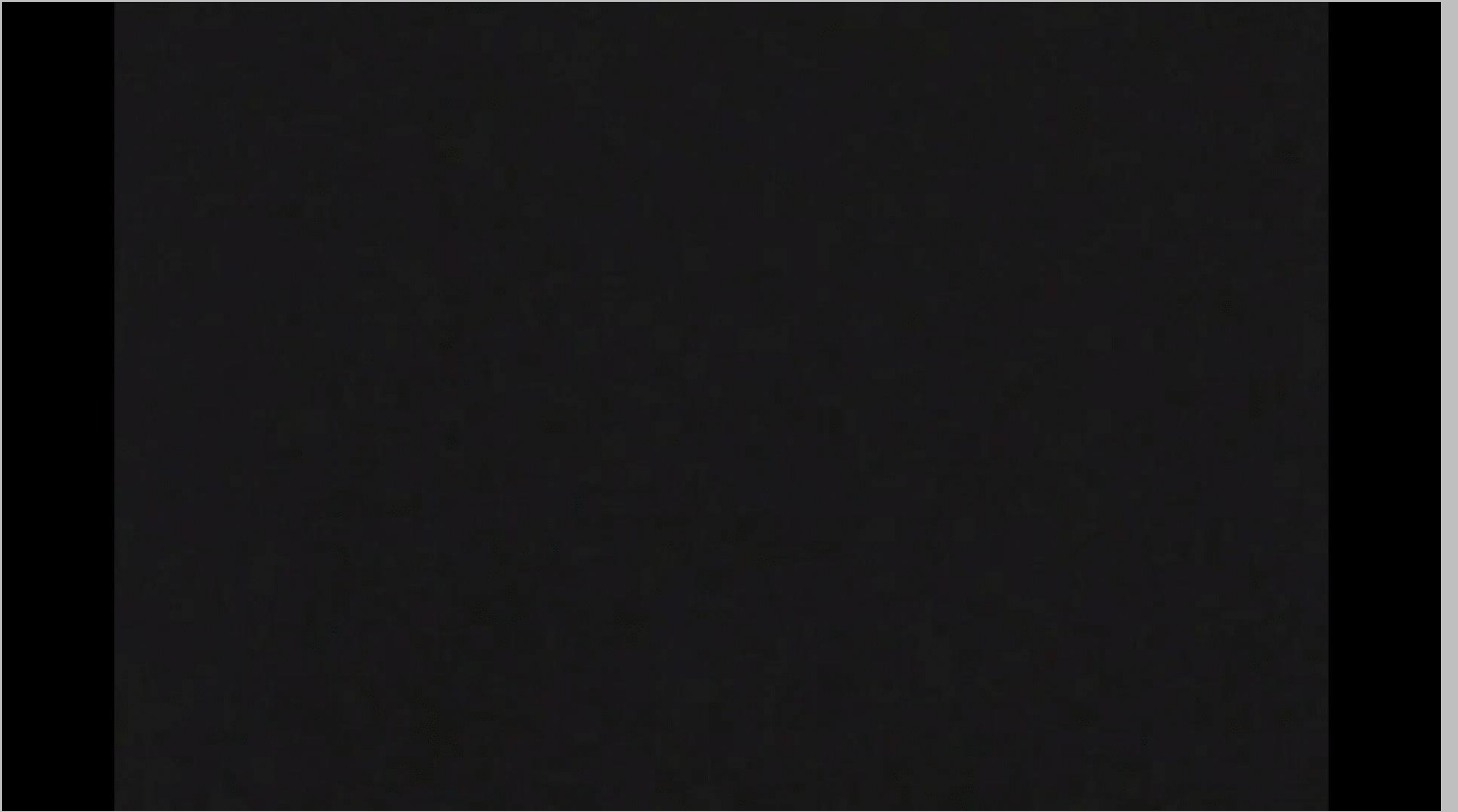


6 Coofor, the
Bernalillo site





**7 Petroglyph
National
Monument**



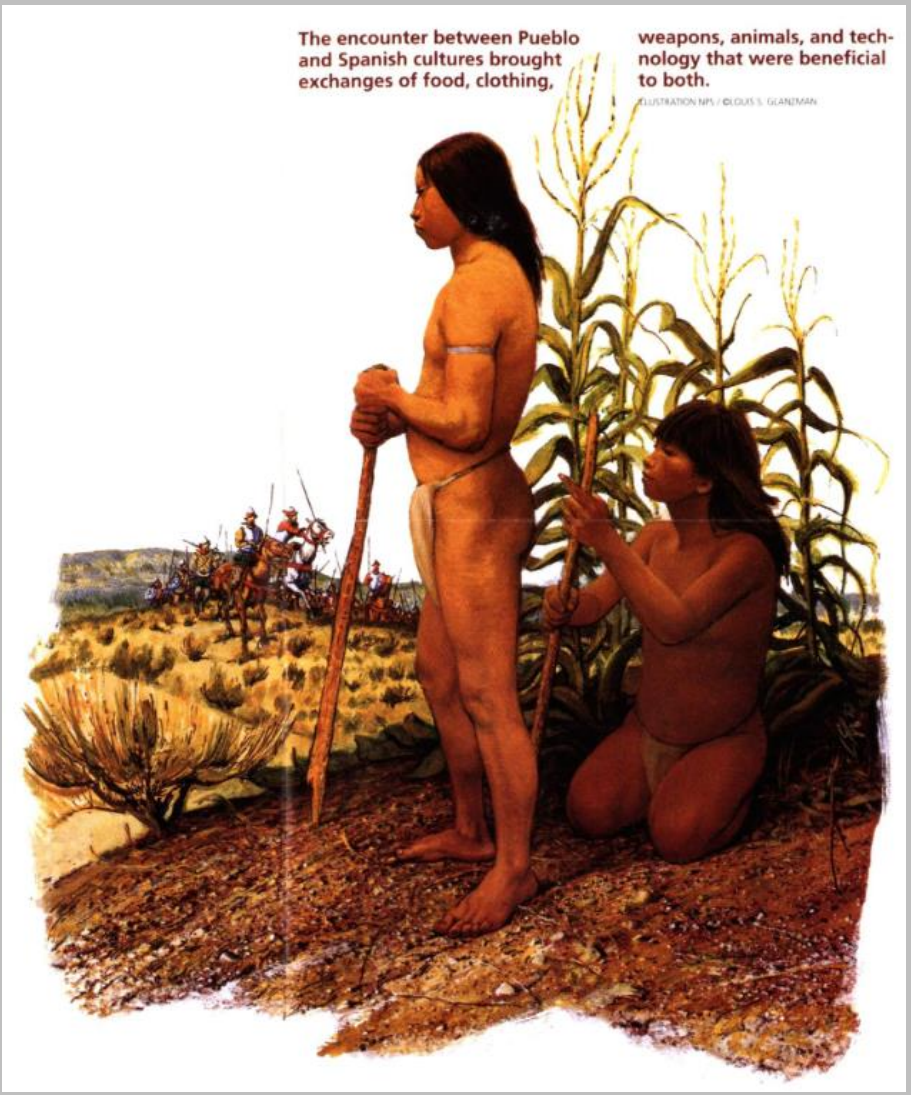
Pecos

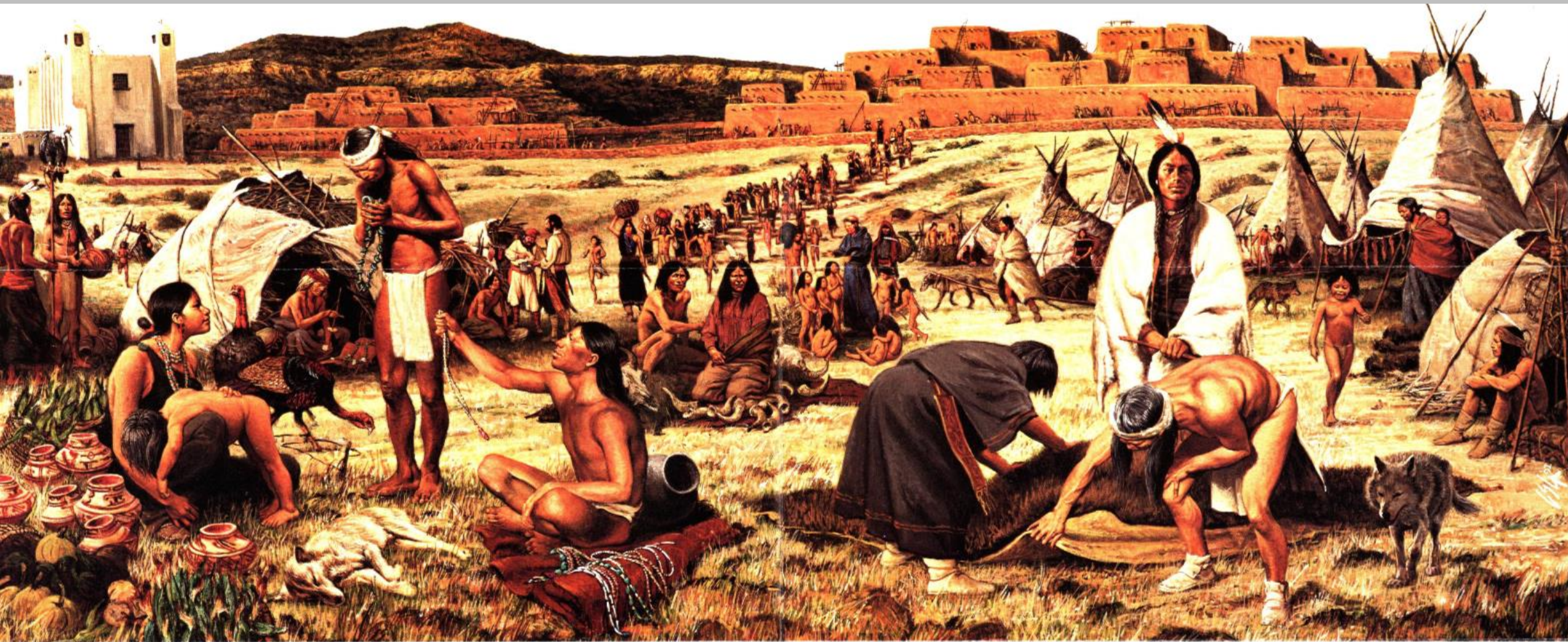


The encounter between Pueblo and Spanish cultures brought exchanges of food, clothing,

weapons, animals, and technology that were beneficial to both.

ILLUSTRATION: UPS / © CLAY S. GARDNER





Pecos: A Cultural Crossroads

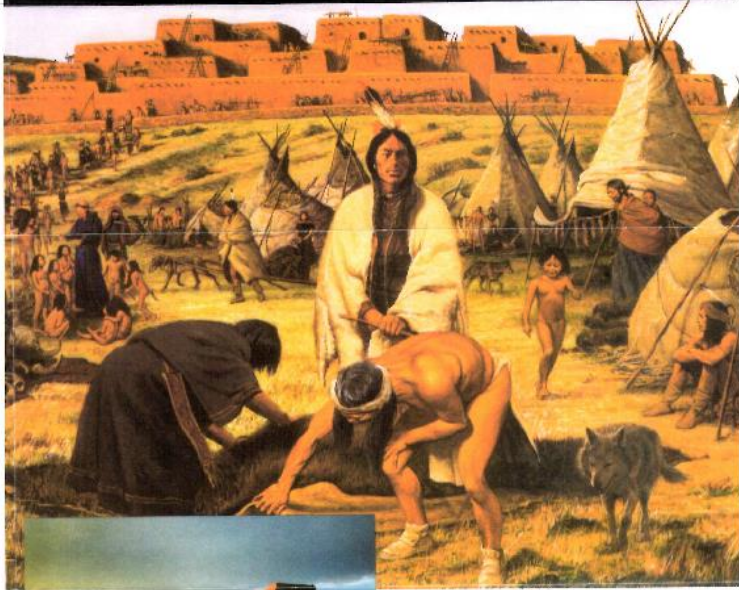
Pueblos, Plains Indians, and Spaniards swap goods during an autumn trade fair in this

view of Pecos pueblo about 1625 by artist Louis S. Glanzman. Its location beside a natu-

ral corridor across the mountains made Pecos a meeting ground for three cultures—Indian,

Spanish and Anglo—that have shaped the American Southwest.

ILLUSTRATION BY LOUIS S. GLANZMAN



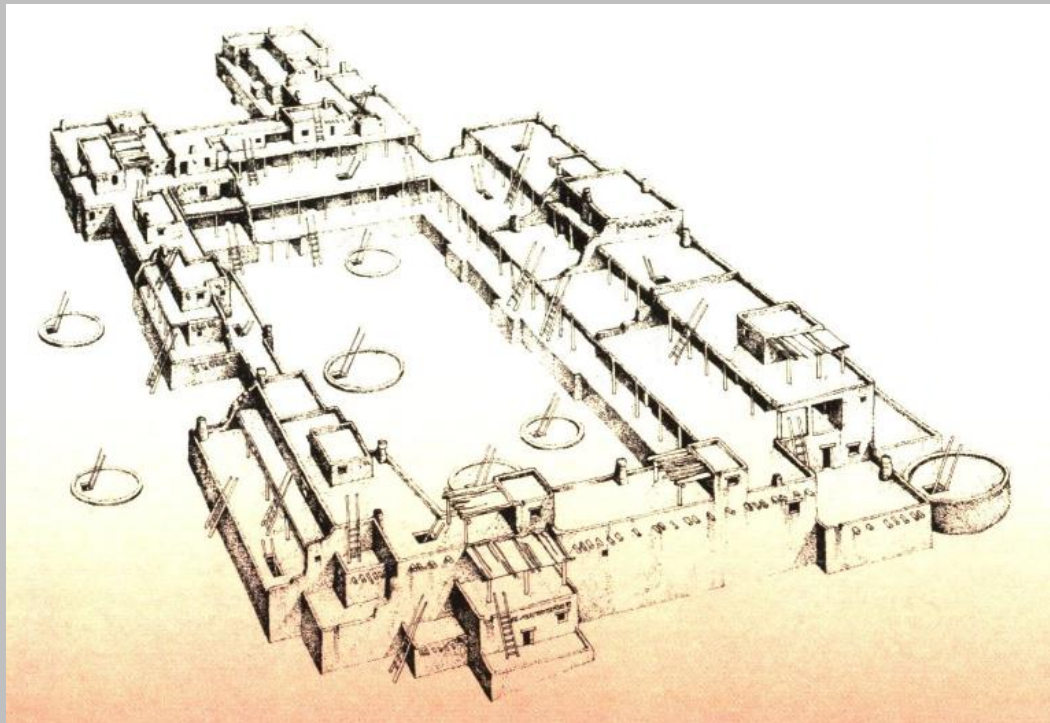
A Pueblo, Plains Indian, and Spanish camp ground during an early Pecos Pueblo about 1525.

General Louis S. Gentry, Lt. Bolton, and other members made Pecos a exciting ground.

By their culture—Indian, Spanish and Anglo—Bolton shaped the American Southwest.

Like other Pueblo groups the Pecos enjoyed a rich cultural tradition with inventive architecture and beautiful crafts. Their elaborate religious life, evidenced by many ceremonial kivas, reached out to the nurturing spirits of all things, animate and inanimate. Their finely tuned adjustments to their natural and cultivated world rested on a practical science infused with spirituality. By story and dance tradition-bearers conveyed the accumulated knowledge and wisdom of centuries past. Regulation of individual, family, and social life stemmed from a religion that bound all things together and counseled balance, harmony, and fitness as the highest ideals.

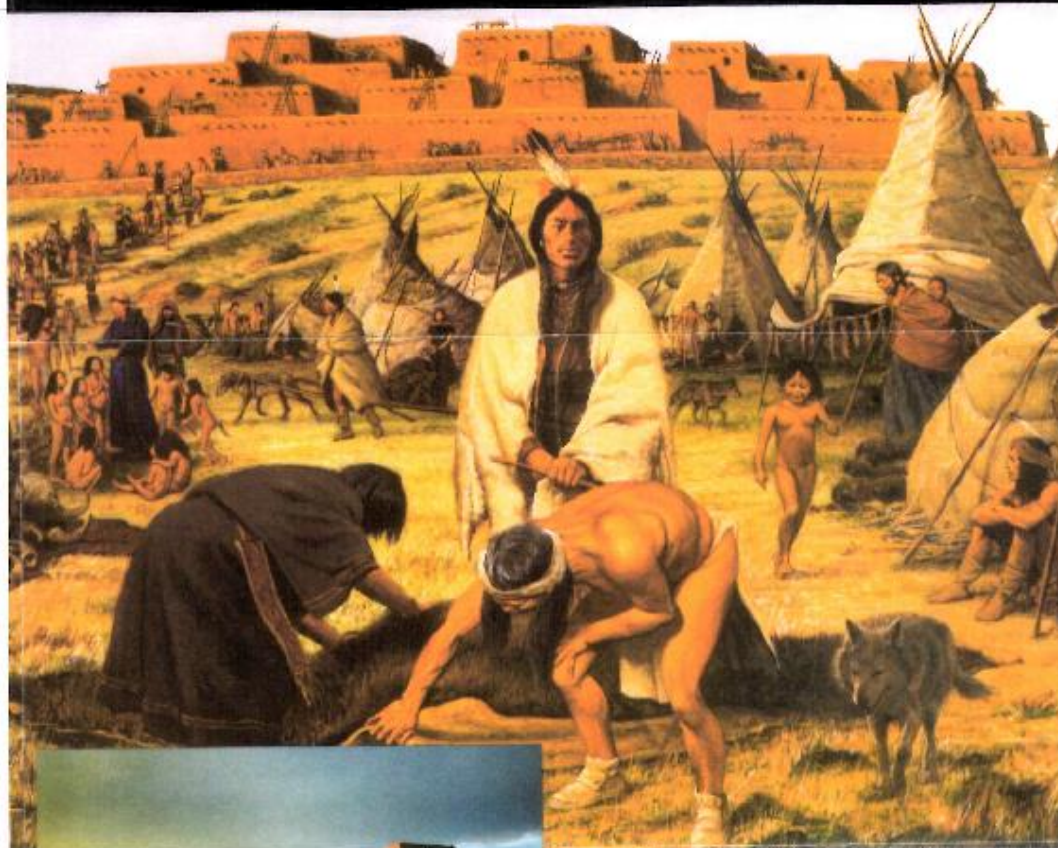
Ideals did not always prevail. Warfare between Pueblo groups was fairly common. The frontier people of Pecos had to be vigil-



The Way it Was

North Pueblo Pecos Pueblo's peak of power and influence spanned 1450 to 1550. A Spanish visitor in 1591 noted its 15- or 16-room houses arranged in blocks "four and five stories high" with ladders that "can be pulled up by hand." Houses were "neat and thoroughly whitewashed." We don't know precisely what either the north or south pueblo looked like, but

thanks to Kidder and to other archeologists we can speculate. The north pueblo (*artist's concept below*) has few outer-wall openings and may have been built for defense. The pueblo was built with shaped stone plastered over with mud. Ground floor rooms were mainly for food storage, with living spaces on upper levels.



8
9



▲ Pueblos, Plains Indians, and Spaniards swap goods during an annual trade fair in this view of Pecos pueblo about 1625

► Artist Louis S. Glanzman. Its location beside a natural corridor across the mountains made Pecos a meeting ground

for these cultures—Indian, Spanish and Anglo—that have shaped the American Southwest.

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The People of

P' ákilâ

/Pecos

In the midst of piñon, juniper, and ponderosa pine woodlands in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains 25 miles southeast of Santa Fe, enfolding the memory of those who came before, from nomadic tribes to pit house dwellers, the remains of a pueblo stand as a meaningful reminder of a culture that once prevailed in this region.

Weathered adobe walls of a Spanish church stand alongside the pueblo on a ridge that extends for a quarter mile within the Pecos River Valley. Long before Spaniards entered this country, this pueblo village was the juncture of trade between people of the Rio Grande Valley and hunting tribes of the buffalo plains. Its nearly 2,000 inhabitants could marshal 500 fighting men; its frontier location brought both war and trade.



Trade activity between Plains and Pueblo bands at Cicuye/Pecos Pueblo.
NPS Photo

Fine-tuned adjustments to their natural and cultivated world rested on practical science infused with spirituality. By story and dance, tradition-bearers conveyed the knowledge and wisdom of centuries past. Individual, family, and social life were regulated via a religion binding all things together and holding balance, harmony, and fitness as the highest ideals. But ideals did not always prevail. **Warfare between Pueblo groups was common.** The frontier people of Pecos had to be vigilant with nomadic Plains Indians, whose intent—trade or war—could be unpredictable.

Neighboring pueblos saw the Pecos as dominant. **And Spaniards would soon learn** that the Pecos could be powerful allies or determined enemies.



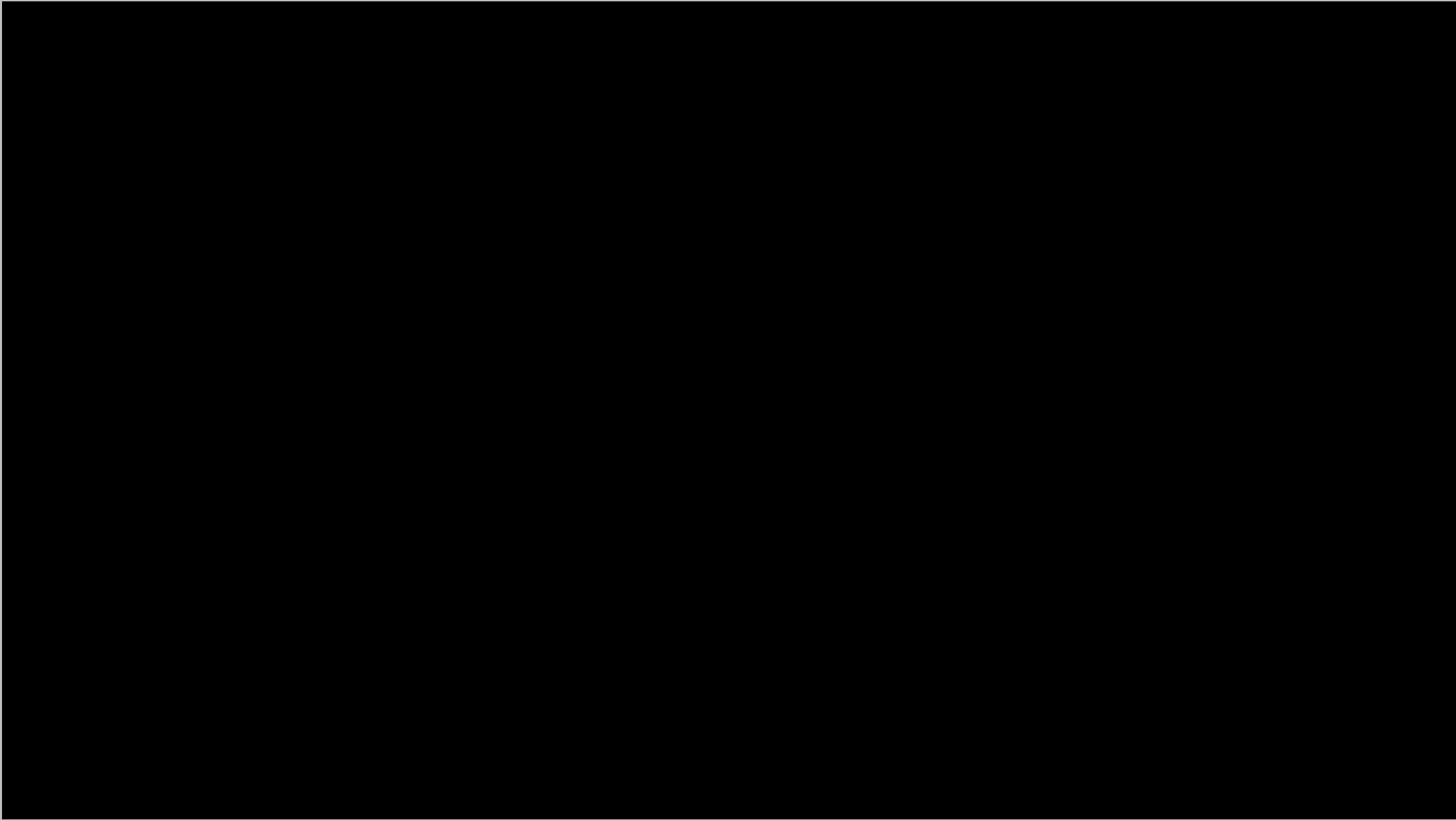
A drawing depicting what the Pecos Pueblo may have looked like during its heyday.
NPS Photo/Lawrence Ormsby

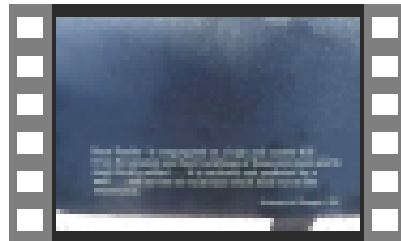
At trade fairs, Plains tribes, mostly nomadic Apaches, brought slaves, buffalo hides, flint, and shells to trade for pottery, crops, textiles, and turquoise with the river Pueblos. Pecos Indians were middlemen, traders and consumers of the goods and cultures of the very different people on either side of the mountains. They became economically powerful and practiced in the arts and customs of two worlds.

Pecos Indians remained Puebloan in culture, despite cultural blendings, practicing an ancient agricultural tradition borne north from Mexico by the seeds of sacred corn. By the late Pueblo period, the last few centuries before the Spaniards arrived in the Southwest, people in this valley had congregated in multi-storied towns overlooking the streams and fields that nourished their crops. In the 1400s, these groups gathered into **Pecos pueblo, which became a regional power.**

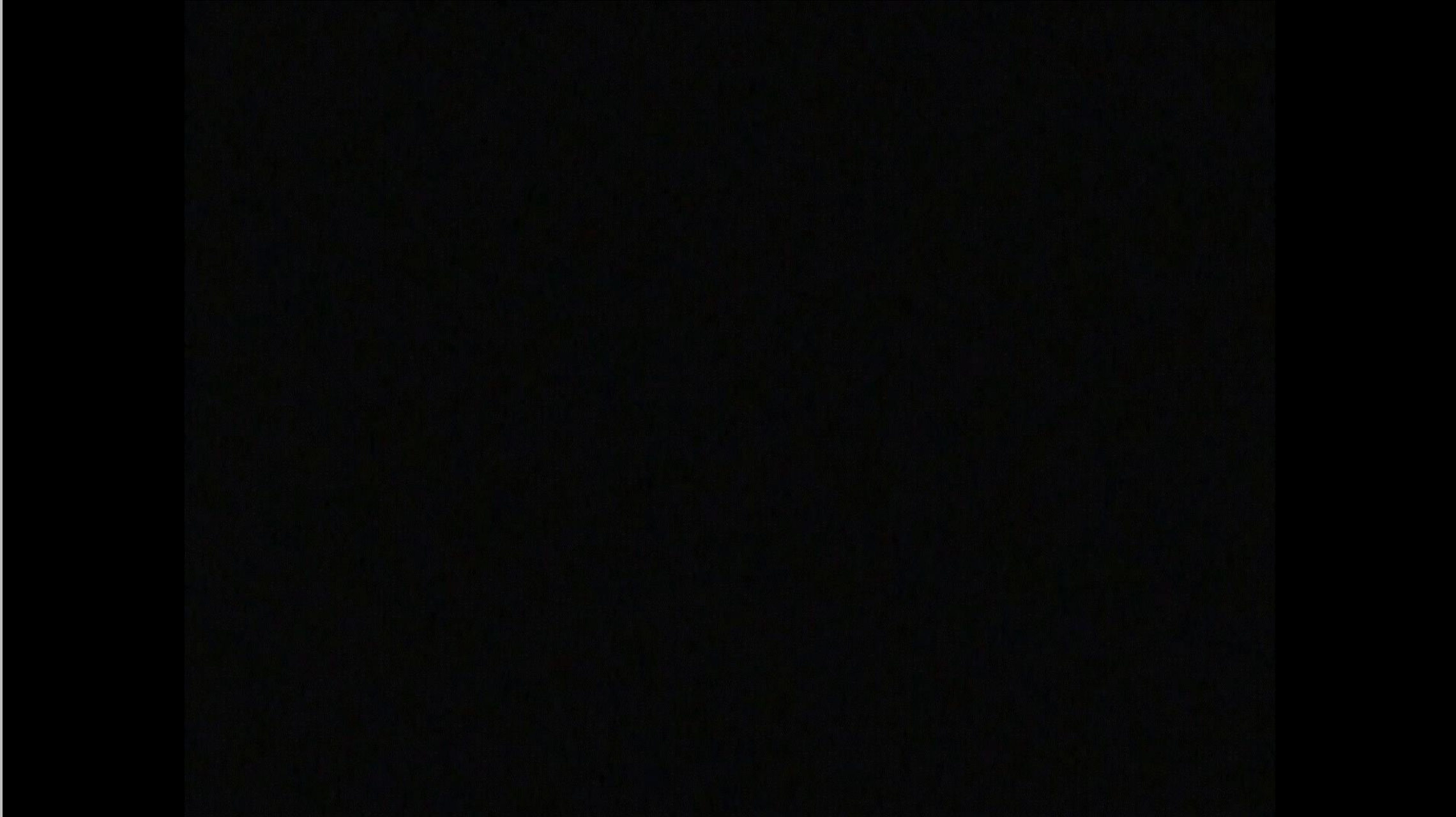


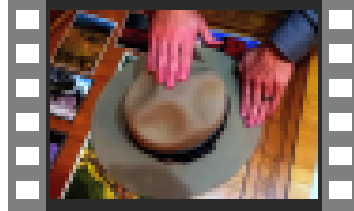
Pecos Pueblo
and the beauties
of nature



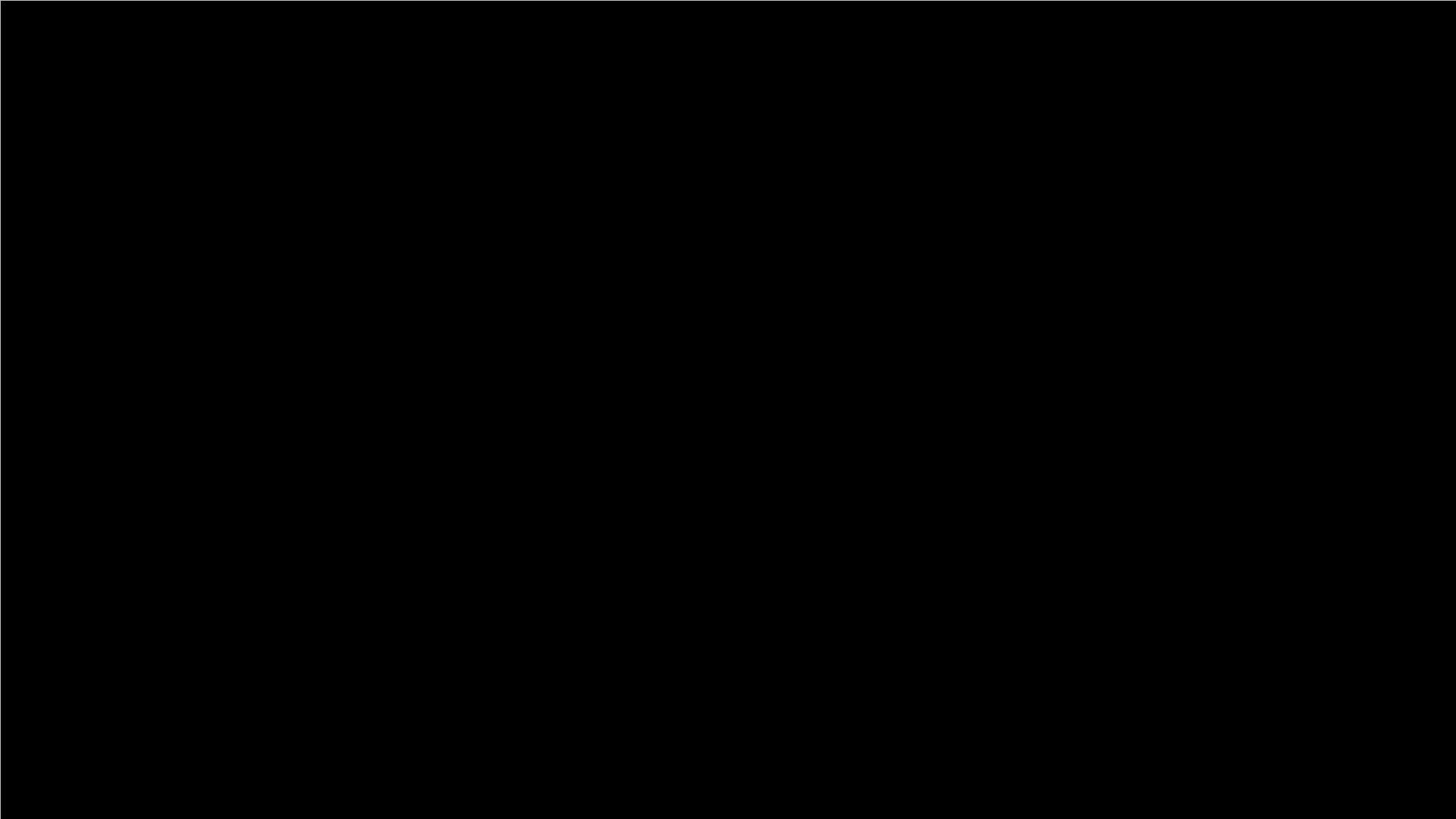


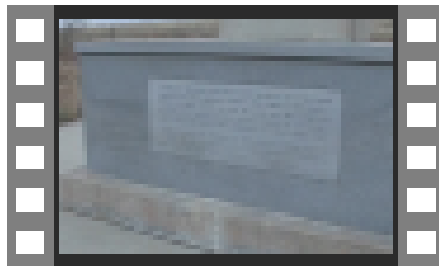
3 Pecos Pueblo, museum and ruins



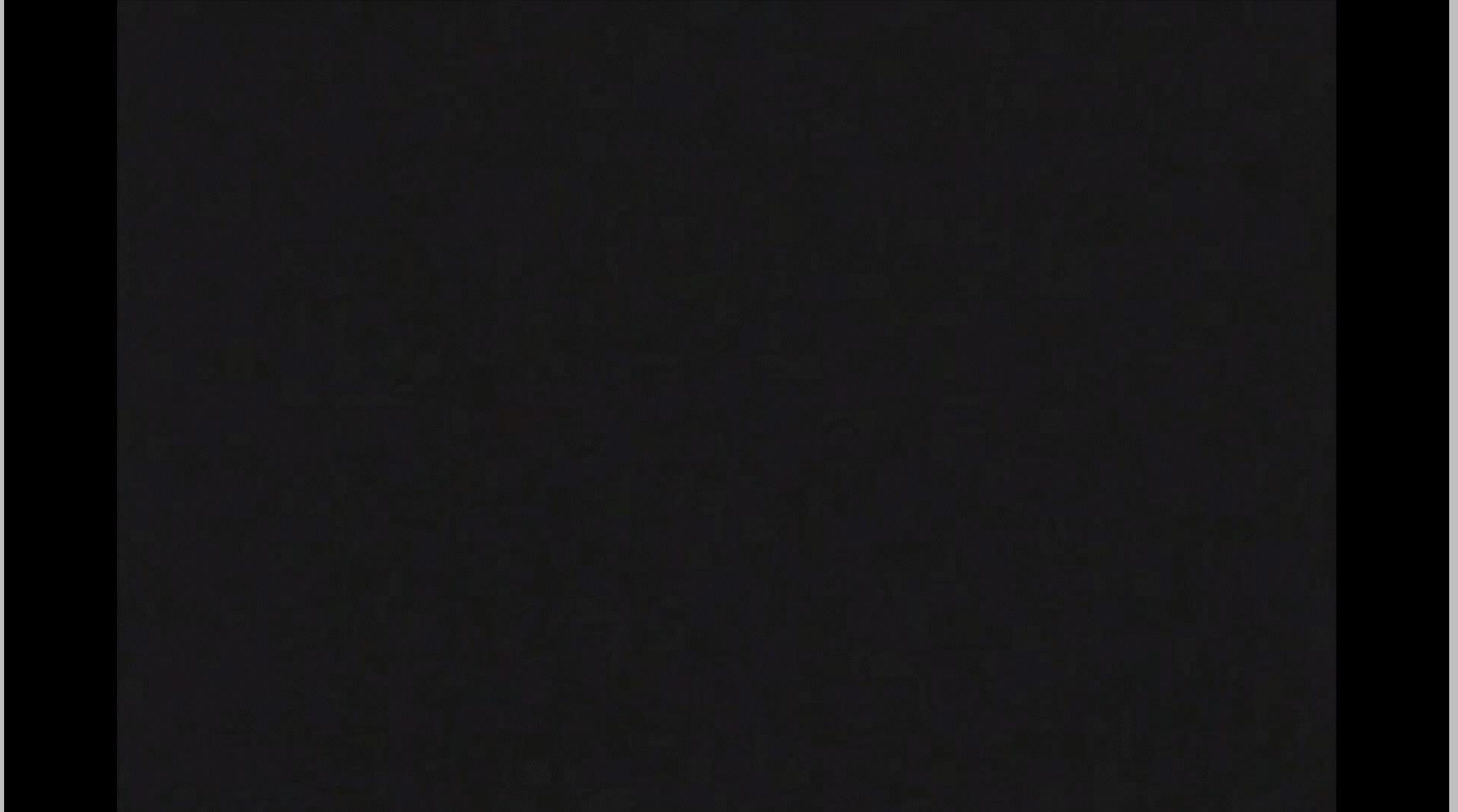


Pecos Pueblo
and Glorieta Pass





8 Cicuique---
Pecos Pueblo in
1541









The Coronado Expedition, 1540–42



