

TRAVELER'S REFERENCE TO THE HISTORY OF MEXICO

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PREFACE

The main feature that distinguishes this work is the inclusion of as many names, dates, and places as possible. That may give the impression that such information is known more exactly than it really is. Most knowledge of Mexican history depends on archaeological inference, eyewitness accounts written long after the events occurred, and newspaper accounts. These last were no more reliable than newspaper accounts are today. Sources often give conflicting information; in this work, the author favored the sources that seemed to be more authoritative. If you encounter historical information that differs from what is shown here, you are invited to use your own judgement.

Battle statistics are especially suspect, since bodies were not usually counted. When viewing the accounts given here, the reader should consider that inflated numbers redounded to the reputations of the victors.

The advantage of presenting the events in chronological order is that readers can appreciate better the confusion and competing pressures with which the principals had to contend. Such a presentation interferes with understanding the underlying political machinations, but sketchy descriptions of the background politics are sufficient for most travelers.

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