

Weeks II and III: The Conquerors' Viewpoints

The students are required to read the following: Bartolomé de las Casas' *The Devastation of the Indies*, Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca's *Castaways*, and Bernal Díaz' *The Conquest of New Spain*.

In order to prepare for the classes, you will be concentrating on close readings of the three primary texts, but the following would be useful:

The translation of *Naufragios*, rendered in English as *Castaways*, has a good bibliography from which you could draw for additional information.

Although one has to take with a grain of salt many of the subjective statements and conclusions proffered by Stephen Greenblatt in his book, *Marvelous Possessions*, there is in fact a wealth of information as well as extremely interesting viewpoints on the conquerors' actions. In general, the book attempts to trace why Columbus, and then subsequent voyagers, moved so easily from the normative modes of travel literature--journey and witness--to an acquisitive mode--travel, witness and possession. See:

Greenblatt, Stephen. *Marvelous Possessions: The Wonder of the New World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.

The Virgin Mary becomes extraordinarily important to the New World, and the impact of the Virgin of Guadalupe cannot be overstated. For a thorough and fascinating overview of Mary, see:

Warner, Marina. *Alone of All Her Sex: The Myth and the Cult of the Virgin Mary*. New York: Viking Press, 1976.