

# SPAIN IN AMERICA

CH. 2/SEC. 3



# CONQUISTADORS



- Soldiers, explorers, and adventurers:
  - served the Spanish Empire
- Mission: to conquer new lands
- Roman Catholic Priests and Friars always accompanied the Spanish explorers
- They were expected to convert natives to Christianity.

# CONQUISTADORS



- Popular during the Renaissance & Elizabethan Age
- Exploration—dominated by the Spanish Conquistador
  - monopolies on the Eastern spice trade
  - expeditions to New World brought wealth and power to Spain.

[Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade](#) references a Cross of Coronado.

According to the film, this gold cross, discovered in a Utah cave system, was given to Francisco Vasquez de Coronado by [Hernán Cortés](#) in 1521.

It is unclear if any such item ever existed. In addition, when Indy captures the cross from robbers aboard a ship off the coast of Portugal, the ship can be seen to be named the "Coronado."



# MOTIVES

Wealth:

gold

silver

spices

Power

Prestige

Increasing Spanish trade

Spreading the Catholic Religion to natives

Building a Spanish Empire



# ATTITUDES TOWARDS NATIVES

- Savage and pagan
- The Indians were expected to pay the Conquistadors in return for protection and religious instruction.
- Natives were often abused, oppressed, exploited, and ill-treated
- The Indians lost freedom, rights, culture and their religion.
- The Spanish Conquistadors were feared



# LET'S MAKE A DEAL

- Rulers gave conquistadors the right to explore and create settlements

- In return, had to give Spain 1/5 of any treasure found



The helmet most commonly worn was the morion:

A heavy steel helm with a pronounced crest or comb on top and sweeping sides that came to points on either end.

# Conquest of Mexico & Peru

- Hernan Cortes
- Conquered the Aztec Empire in 2 years
- Present-day Mexico
- Huge amounts of gold made Cortes & Spain wealthy



- Francisco Pizarro
- Conquered the Inca Empire
- Present-day Peru



# Conquistadors vs. Mighty Empires

- Spanish:
  - Weapons: guns, cannons
  - Animals: horses, huge ferocious dogs
  - disease





He is the first European to step onto [Florida](#) land. He named it Pascal de Florida which means the feast of flowers.

Some accounts believe this was because it was Palm Sunday when they had spotted land on April 2, 1513. Other accounts say it was because of the numerous flowers on the land. Of course, it could be a combination of the two.



# Fountain of Youth

- Juan Ponce de Leon
  - Made the first Spanish landing in Florida
  - Legend: looking for the fountain of youth
  - Led to Spanish settlement: St. Augustine