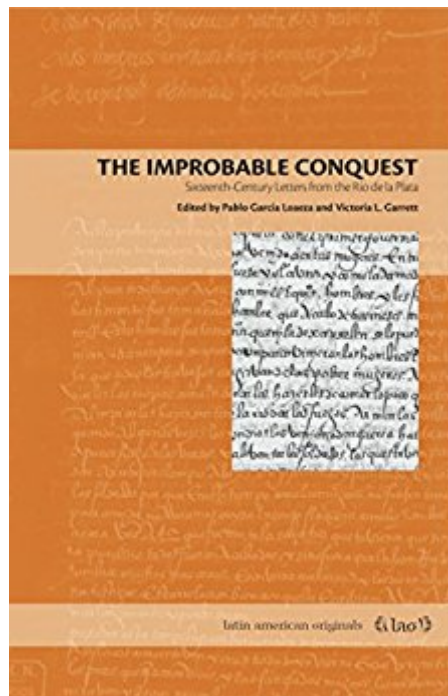


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The Improbable Conquest: Sixteenth-Century Letters From The R o De La Plata (Latin American Originals)



Synopsis

The Improbable Conquest offers translations of a series of little-known letters from the chaotic Spanish conquest of the Río de la Plata region, uncovering a rich and understudied historical resource. These letters were written by a wide variety of individuals, including clergy, military officers, and the region's first governor, Pedro de Mendoza. There is also an exceptional contribution from Isabel de Guevara, one of the few women involved in the conquest to have recorded her experiences. Writing about the conditions of settlements and expeditions, these individuals vividly expose the less glamorous side of the conquest, narrating in detail various misfortunes, infighting, corruption, and complaints. Their letters further reveal the colony's fraught relationship with the native peoples it sought to colonize, giving insight into the complexities of the conquest and the colonization process. Pablo García Loaeza and Victoria Garrett provide an introduction to the history of the region and the conquest's key players, as well as a timeline and a glossary explaining difficult and archaic Spanish terms.

Book Information

File Size: 5961 KB

Print Length: 144 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0271065486

Publisher: Penn State University Press; 1 edition (December 22, 2014)

Publication Date: December 22, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B011RO70FK

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,088,964 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #21

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