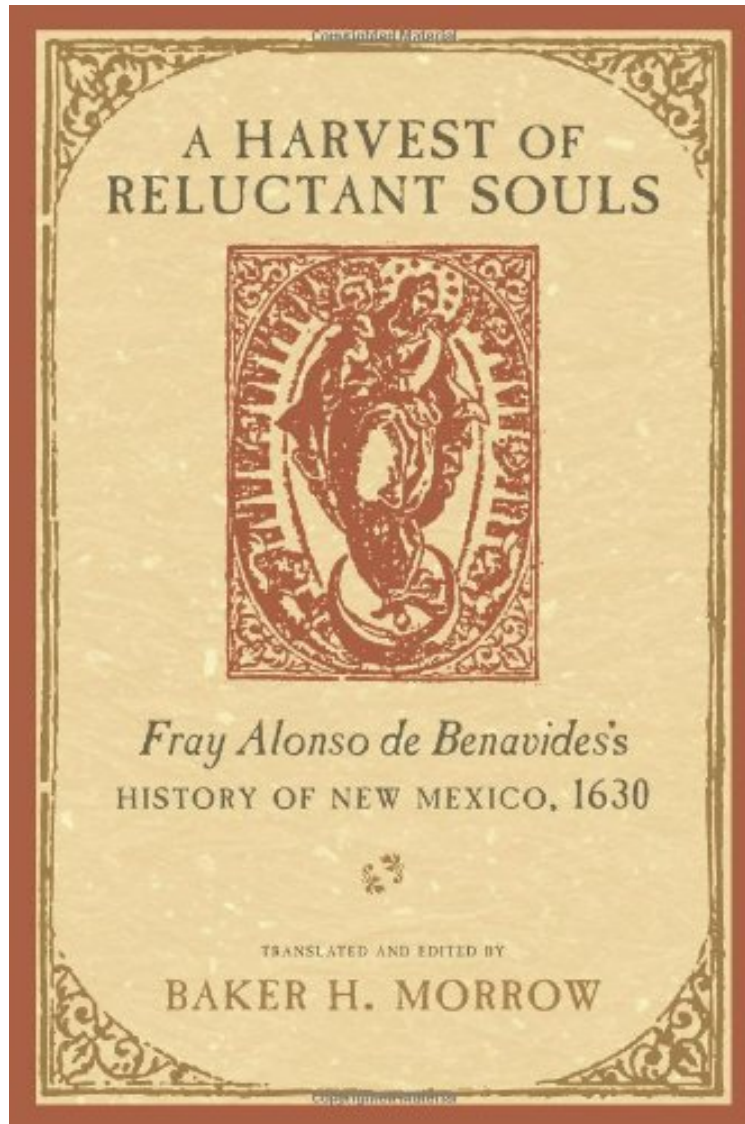


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A Harvest of Reluctant Souls: Fray Alonso de Benavides's History of New Mexico, 1630

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American Southwest in the 1630s. The lay of the land is described so beautifully that you can hear the buffalo galloping. "There are so many of them that they blot out the plains." Baker H. Morrow translated and edited this book from the a pristine copy of the original notes of Fray Alonso de Benavides's and his band of Franciscan Friar Priests, which were written for the King of Spain. A one in a thousand tome in this day and age!! Hundreds upon hundreds of Indians were converted to Christianity, begging for "Baptism" , and, already worshipping the Holy Cross when the Friars arrived. Why? Because a "Flying Blue Lady", a nun, had been there beforehand and taught the Indians their Catechism, speaking to them in their own language. And who was it but Sister Mary Agreda, author of the 'Mystical City of God', another wonder of the times. Sister is now at peace, her beautiful incorrupt body, lying in state in the Vatican. She is truly beautiful of face and some have called her 'Sleeping Beauty'. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An amazing account of my forefatherBy CustomerThis book is an important historical account of the Southwest that has been long overlooked in public schools. But more importantly it helps us to understand the culture of New Mexico, Mexico and Latin America as a whole. 1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy Angela J GonzalesI have not started reading it yet, but as far as the condition and time of arrival, I could not have asked for more.

The most thorough account ever written of southwestern life in the early seventeenth century, this engaging book was first published in 1630 as an official report to the king of Spain by Fray Alonso de Benavides, a Portuguese Franciscan who was the third head of the mission churches of New Mexico. In 1625, Father Benavides and his party traveled north from Mexico City to New Mexico, a strange land of frozen rivers, Indian citadels, and mines full of silver and garnets. Benavides and his Franciscan brothers built schools, erected churches, engineered peace treaties, and were said to perform miracles. Benavides riveting exploration narrative provides portraits of the Pueblo Indians, the Apaches, and the Navajos at a time of fundamental change. It also gives us the first full picture of European colonial life in the southern Rockies, the southwestern deserts, and the Great Plains, along with an account of mission architecture and mission life and a unique evocation of faith in the wilderness.

From the Inside FlapThe most thorough account ever written of southwestern life in the early seventeenth century, this engaging book was first published in 1630 as an official report to the king of Spain by Fray Alonso de Benavides, a Portuguese Franciscan who was the third head of the mission churches of New Mexico. About the AuthorBaker H. Morrow, FASLA, is a landscape architect in Albuquerque and an associate professor at the University of New Mexico. He is the founding director of the master's program in landscape architecture at the University of New Mexico.