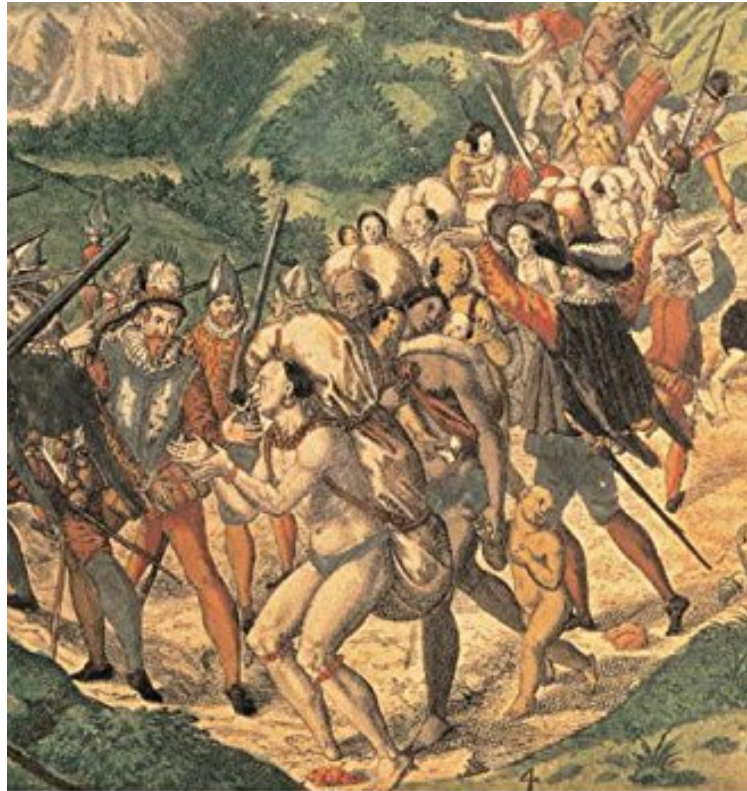


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## A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies

*Bartolome de Las Casas*

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Spanish History of Conquest By John G. Albitre A great read about the injustice the Spanish inflicted on the Tainos of the Caribbean and the Aztecs of Mexico and the natives of South America in general. Imagine torturing a native with fire for his source of gold that is unknown, and of little value to him. His incessant denial meant his death. Worse yet, imagine a gibbet, a gallows of sorts, with 10 natives dangling from it with feet just above wood and kindling. This is a terrible death that awaited them. The massacres, the atrocities ... most without reason. It is a great book to be aware of the terrible end that awaited the natives at the coming of the Spaniards. They were very cruel, considering they were supposedly civilized, and worse yet, Christians. Fray De Las Casa, to some extent participated in the conquest, but seeing the injustice, repented, and came to protect the Indians. It's a great summary of loss and destruction of 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By mackare jones This book reveals the true horrible nature of European character.

Bartolome de Las Casas was the first and fiercest critic of Spanish colonialism in the New World. An early traveller to the Americas who sailed on one of Columbus's voyages, Las Casas was so horrified by the wholesale massacre he witnessed that he dedicated his life to protecting the Indian community. He wrote *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* in 1542, a shocking catalogue of mass slaughter, torture and slavery, which showed that the evangelizing vision of Columbus had descended under later conquistadors into genocide. Dedicated to Philip II to alert the Castilian Crown to these atrocities and demand that the Indians be entitled to the basic rights of humankind, this passionate work of documentary vividness outraged Europe and contributed to the idea of the Spanish 'Black Legend' that would last for centuries. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

About the Author Bartolome de las Casas was born in Seville around 1484. At the age of eighteen he left for the New World, where he participated in the conquest of Cuba and witnessed the first full-scale massacre of an Indian community. He became a priest and entered the Dominican order. He dedicated himself to the protection and defence of the Indians. Anthony Pagden teaches in the Department of History at John Hopkins University, Baltimore. He is the author of *The Fall of Natural Man and Spanish Imperialism and the Political Imagination*. Nigel Griffin read modern languages at Oxford and was a Fellow of New College in the 1970s. He now concentrates on writing and translating and has worked for both the UN and the World Bank.