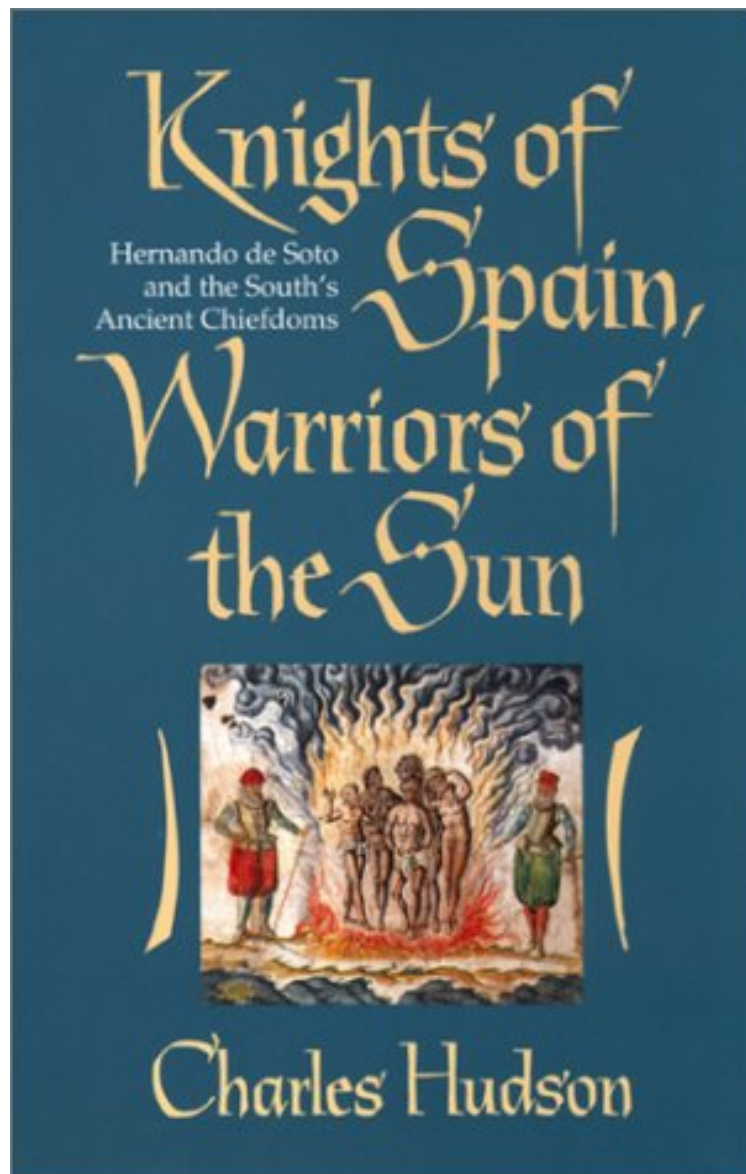


(Download pdf) Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun: Hernando de Soto and the South's Ancient Chiefdoms

## Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun: Hernando de Soto and the South's Ancient Chiefdoms

Charles Hudson

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Charles Hudson : Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun: Hernando de Soto and the South's Ancient Chiefdoms before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun: Hernando de Soto and the South's Ancient Chiefdoms:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I have enjoyed reading this book about the Desoto expeditionBy CustomerI have enjoyed reading this book about the Desoto expedition. It would be more beneficial if it made a better attempt to locate the expeditionon numerous maps during each significant tribal encounter. There are numerous references to illustrations and definitions that are hard to find. Although the book with the full story coming from each of the four " Choniclers" is much more expensive, I will be ordering it soon. Overall, this book has been an easy read with some elaborations I did not know about, It would be slightly better if the text font were larger. I am only 47 and I have never needed glasses but it is getting hard to read small text within 24" from my eyes.5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Telling of Desotos 4 Year Trek and the Early American Indian Culture He EncounteredBy Daniel HurleyWhile reading Tony Horwitz's recent book, "A Voyage Long and Strange: Rediscovering the New World", about his travels through the Americas to rediscover the early explorers and colonists that preceded Jamestown and Plymouth, I became fascinated with those who came to America a full 100 years before Jamestown, particularly Hernando De Soto's 4 year plunge into the wilderness of America with his 600 man army in 1539. In spite of failures by previous Spanish explorers, including one army that lost all but 4 men, De Soto marches throughout the entire southeast from Florida, as far north as Tennessee and North Carolina to as far west as northeast Texas in a vain search for gold and other precious metals. De Soto's journey is fascinating in that he marches through the wilderness and unknown with an unusual measure of confidence while encountering an amazing society of Indian tribes totally unlike what American's perceive of the Indian culture based on their knowledge of American Indians post Jamestown. These tribes had concentrated villages with advanced agricultural development, a networked culture with a central chief, an upper class and they utilized great mounds for the base of the homes of their chiefs and to a lesser degree, their other important tribal members. Based on eye witness accounts left in chronicles and secondary sources, Hudson, tells the story of De Soto's travels and encounters with the Indians that is even more fascinating by Hudson's ability, aided by archeology, to trace a pretty accurate mapping of De Soto's travels. The cruelty inflicted by De Soto and his followers seems counter productive particularly as they are frequently at war with the various tribes they encounter as they in turn depend on the Indians supplies for survival. Thus 220 years before Sherman's march, De Soto also lived off the land creating even greater devastation in his wake. What is very interesting is the detail about the Indians encountered, the names of the towns, biographies on the various chiefs, the detail of their lifestyle and the intriguing explanations of the built up mounds that are still present throughout southeast America. The initial part of the book provides a good history of the early Spanish explorations before de Soto, the closing chapters explains what may have happened to these advanced Indian cultures that were in apparent decline before de Soto and virtually melted away before the tribes known today became prevalent like the Cherokees, the Creeks, Chickasaws etc. The final section covers the great debate and documentation of De Soto's route that was seemingly well documented through the Smithsonian but has more recently been proven to be less accurate by current scholars such as Hudson. If you are only interested in de Soto's travels, this is the meat of the book and whether you have interest in the final sections, this is still one of the best books on De Soto and those lost American tribes who seem related to the Aztecs without the stone necessary to similar stone structures, they in turned built mounds.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy dorr dennisthe last word on de solo

Between 1539 and 1542 Hernando de Soto led a small army on a desperate journey of exploration of almost four thousand miles across the Southeast. Until now, his path has been one of history's most intriguing mysteries. With *Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun*, anthropologist Charles Hudson offers a solution to the question, "Where did de Soto go?" Using a new route reconstruction, for the first time the story of the de Soto expedition can be laid on a map, and in many instances it can be tied to specific archaeological sites.Arguably the most important event in the history of the Southeast in the sixteenth century, De Soto's journey cut a bloody and indelible swath across both the landscape and native cultures in a quest for gold and personal glory. The desperate Spanish army followed the sunset from Florida to Texas before abandoning its mission. De Soto's one triumph was that he was the first European to explore the vast region that would be the American South, but he died on the banks of the Mississippi River a broken man in 1542.Abundantly illustrated, *Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun* is a clearly written narrative that unfolds against the exotic backdrop of a now extinct social and geographic landscape. Hudson masterfully chronicles both De Soto's expedition and the native societies he visited. A blending of archaeology, history, and historical geography, this is a monumental study of the sixteenth-century Southeast.

From *Library Journal*Hernando de Soto's tortuous and futile expedition, from 1539 to 1543, in search of imaginary cities of gold marked the first significant European penetration of what was to become the American South. In his previous work, coauthored with Jerald T. Milanich (*Hernando de Soto and the Indians of Florida*, LJ 1/93), he made use of the archaeological and documentary evidence to establish part of the long-debated route of this epic trek, as well as the "social geography" of the now extinct native peoples. In this long-anticipated study, the author completes in detail the story of the expedition, its route (which went as far as Texas), and the impact on the native chiefdoms. For the latter, contact with the Old World was an "unimaginable calamity," leading to a long decline brought about by

military assault, subsequent destabilization, and epidemic disease. This scholarly work, written in an accessible narrative style is likely to be the definitive work on this subject; highly recommended for public and academic libraries. William F. Young, SUNY at Albany Lib. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. The definitive work on this subject. (Library Journal) Hudson has brought alive the world changed by Hernando de Soto and the consequences for those whose home it was. (Times Literary Supplement) Hudson's masterful new book has raised the level of the discussion for all who will come after him, and he has made an invaluable contribution to the historical understanding of Native American life in the Southeast. (Southern Cultures) There is much to be learned from this volume. . . . [It] is likely to become the definitive work on the subject. (Latin American Perspectives) This book will stand as the most thorough analysis of the De Soto expedition produced since the 1930s. (Vernon J. Knight Jr. coeditor of *The De Soto Chronicles: The Expedition of Hernando de Soto to North America in 1539-1543*) No scholar has spent more energy, enthusiasm and passion in following Governor-General de Soto across the South-East of the United States than Hudson has. (Journal of European Economic History) A book of great and lasting importance, making major contributions to geographic, ethnographic, and historical scholarship . . . by far the most persuasive approximation of De Soto's route. (Mississippi Quarterly) Hovering between specialized archaeological research and compelling lay history, this work is destined for textbook status in the field of de Soto studies, and may shift some roadside markers along the way. (Oxford American) Well organized, engaging, and pithy a real pleasure to read. (American Anthropologist) About the Author Charles M. Hudson, a professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Georgia, is one of the foremost authorities on the history and culture of the Indians of the U.S. Southeast. His many books include *Black Drink*, *The Forgotten Centuries*, and *Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun* (all Georgia).