



TENOCHTITLAN / TLATELOLCO

CIRCA 1500



How to get indigenous views of the Conquest?

- **There is no “Indian” account**, but different versions from the Mexica, Tlaxcala, Totonac, and other groups.
- Spanish Clerics created Roman alphabet written versions of indigenous languages to encourage Christianization: Nahuatl, Mixtec, and Zapotec.
- Bernardino de Sahagún, *General History of the Things of New Spain*, 12 volumes, also known as The Florentine Codex, 1550s-1570s.
- Sahagún employed noblemen from Tlatelolco, the *altepetl* allied to Tenochtitlan within the same island, to write about the history and culture of the people, including the conquest.
- The text was written in separate columns of Castilian (Spanish) and Nahuatl languages, with added illustrations.

EL DOZENO LIBRO

Fracta de como los españoles conquistaron ala ciudad de Mexico.



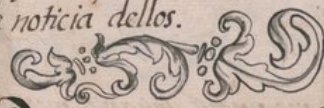
Libro doze de la conquista de la nueva espanya, que es la ciudad de Mexico.



Insc matlacxih o mume amoxilli. itechpatla tva in que nijn muchitli. iau ioth in nican ipan alte peth Mexico.



Capitulo primero de las señales y pronosticos que aparecieron antes que los Espanoles viesen esta tierra njuve de noticia dellos.



Dies años ante que vinjese los espanoles desta tierra: parecio en el cielo, vna cosa maravillosa, y espantosa: yes que parecio vna llama de fuego, muy grande y muy resplandeciente: parecia que estaua tendida en el mismo cielo, era ancha de la parte de abaxo, y de la parte de arriba aguda, como quando el fuego arde parecia que la punta della llegaua hasta el medio del cielo, leuatauase

Insc capitulo vncamjtra. in rez, in mottac in machiottl yoa in tezavitt, in aiama val keij espanoles, in nican tlalli ipan, maia mono iximachoa in nican thaneque.

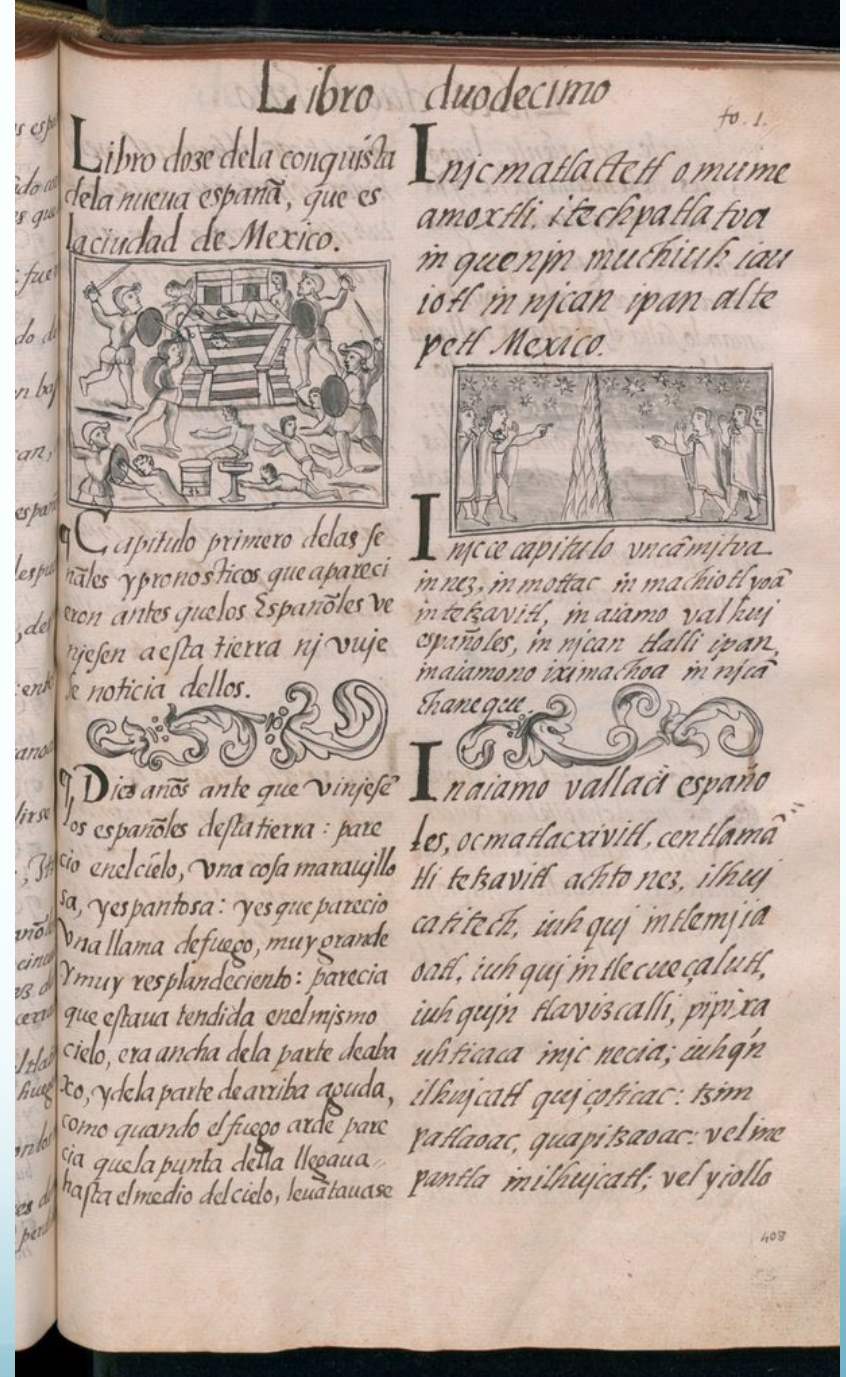
In aiama vallaci espanoles, oc matlacxih, cent tlama tli tezavitt achto rez, ihuycacatech, iuh quj in tlemjia oad, iuh quj in tlecucalust, iuh qujn tlavos calli, pipixauh ticaca injc necia; iuh qn ihuycatth quj catiac: tsim yallaoac, quapi: saaac: vel me pantla in ihuycatth, vel yiollo

Spanish version:

“The twelfth book, treats of how the Spaniards conquered Mexico City.”

Nahuatl version:

“Twelfth book, which speaks of how war was waged here in the altepetl of Mexico.”





**“Twin Temple at Tenochtitlan”
Codex Aubin, late 16th Century
Massacre of Toxcatl**



**“Meeting between Moctezuma
and Cortes” from Bernardino de
Sahagún, *General history of the
things of New Spain, or The
Florentine Codex, 1555-1579***



Codex Azcatitlan, late 16th C. Spaniards on the March to Tenochtitlan (image left) and then Battle on the Templo Mayor (image right)

Note drummer and dead dancer



Violence in Sahagún's Florentine Codex, massacre of **Toxcatl**.

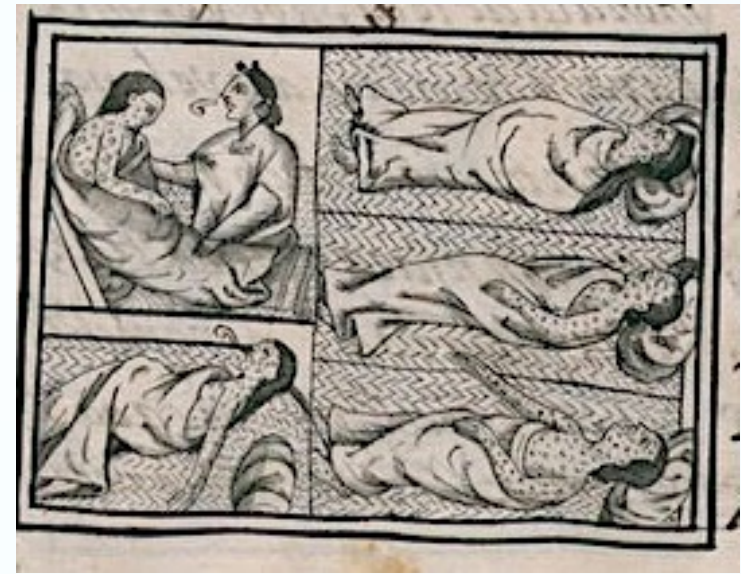
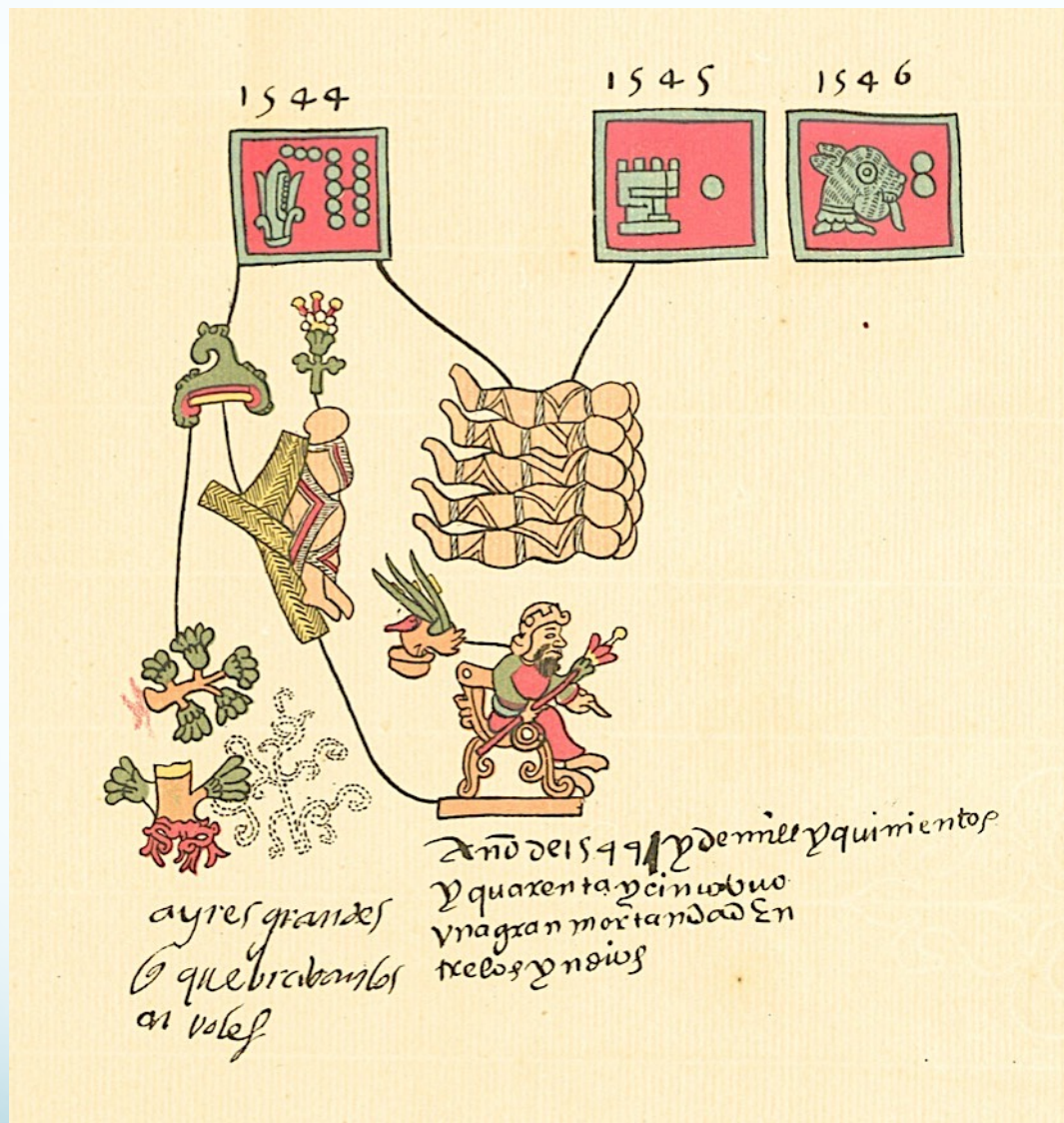
Tlaxcalan forces



Illustrations from Bernardino de Sahagún, *General history of the things of New Spain*, or The Florentine Codex



Cortés Greets Xicotencatl,
Lienzo de Tlaxcala
(Tlaxcala's cloth)
mid-16th Century



Smallpox in Sahagún's Florentine Codex, 1550s, depicting events of the conquest.

Codex Telleriano Remensis
1550s, 46v,

Non-Spanish European views, 1500s



Spanish cruelty, from Bartolomé de las Casas' *Brevísima* Frankfurt, 1598, initially 1552, origin of the “Black Legend”

Spanish views, late 17th Century



Miguel and Juan González, series of 24 panels on the Conquest, 1698. Museo de América, Madrid

Translatio imperri, or transference of rule





Spaniards throwing the corpses of the ruler of Tenochtitlan (Moctezuma), and the ruler of Tlatelolco into the lake. Florentine Codex.



Moctezuma, attributed to Antonio Rodriguez, 1680s

Mexica views
Spanish views
White or Creole Mexican view