

Class Notes for March 2<sup>nd</sup>

The following notes refer to the Bernal Diaz del Castillo reading, “The Conquest of New Spain” in the Mexican C&T Module. They are short paraphrases of what was said in the class room during discussion. Some notes are much shorter than others depending on the level of interest and response from the class on that particular day.

Some differences from the novel “Broken Spears” were requested by Dr. Helman.

- Spanish Infiltration
- Montezuma
- Portrayal of Relationships
- Interactions

1. Spanish relationships seem false with Cholulans because of the Spanish precautions and the Cholulans preparation for war.
2. Does Montezuma view the Spaniards as Gods? Some students argue that it doesn't matter because Cholulans were still cautious to the Spaniards because they (Montezuma's people) knew that they could have marched into Mexico and wiped the Cholulans and their families out with force.
3. Cortez seems to have more respect for his clan. For example, when Cortez's and clan went to fight the Cuban's in order to support and honor their leader and bring him back for the trial.
4. 50 years after the Conquest Bernal Diaz (the man who fought with Cortez), he tries to recollect the battles with the Spanish. He focuses on the Spanish conquering the Cholulans/ Mexico. In the intro narrative to this reading (p.T-1), “only the impressive things were recalled”, says the speaker.
5. The Spaniards text doesn't include the question of the number of conversions over to the different religion of the Spaniards. This is unlike the text of the Mexican natives from the previous reading (Broken Spears). The text includes the religious conversions of the Mexicans to the Spaniards religion.
6. As a critique some students argue that “The Conquest of New Spain” was problematic when trying to understand the language and concepts. Several words were written in Spanish therefore they were hard to understand.

7. Dr. Helman asks the question, did gold really matter to Bernal Diaz? Students reply yes because of the Broken Spear's narration about the "face value of gold".
8. Finally, Helman asks the class did the things that happened in the city, for example the children being slaughtered, seem plausible? Due to limited time most students reply yes because of the previous reading in Broken Spear's that refers to certain sacrifices in order to get blessings from God. Furthermore throughout the Mexican Module there are many fictional narratives and if this is true then anything within the power of imagination becomes plausible.