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978-1-107-00121-3 - Bartolomé de las Casas: A Biography

Lawrence A. Clayton

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## BARTOLOMÉ DE LAS CASAS

### A BIOGRAPHY

The Dominican priest Bartolomé de las Casas (1485–1566) was a prominent chronicler of the early Spanish conquest of the Americas, a noted protector of the American Indians, and arguably the most significant figure in the early Spanish Empire after Christopher Columbus. Following an epiphany in 1514, Las Casas fought the Spanish control of the Indies for the rest of his life, writing vividly about the brutality of the Spanish conquistadors. Once a settler and exploiter of the American Indians, he became their defender, breaking ground for the modern human rights movement. Las Casas brought his understanding of Christian scripture to the forefront in his defense of the Indians, challenging the premise that the Indians of the New World were any less civilized or capable of practicing Christianity than Europeans. *Bartolomé de las Casas: A Biography* is the first major English-language and scholarly biography of Las Casas's life in a generation.

Lawrence A. Clayton is Professor of History at the University of Alabama, where he has been on the faculty since 1972. He is the author of several books, including *Bartolomé de las Casas and the Conquest of the Americas* (2011), *A History of Modern Latin America* (2005), and *Peru and the United States: The Condor and the Eagle* (1999). Three of his books have been translated and published in Peru and Ecuador.

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## A Biography

*Lawrence A. Clayton*

*University of Alabama*



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
 Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press  
 32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

www.cambridge.org  
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107001213

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First published 2012

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data*

Clayton, Lawrence A.

Bartolomé de las Casas: a biography / Lawrence A. Clayton.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 978-1-107-00121-3 (hbk.)

1. Casas, Bartolomé de las, 1485–1566.

2. Explorers – America – Biography. 3. Explorers – Spain – Biography.

4. America – Discovery and exploration – Spanish. 5. Indians, Treatment of.

6. Dominicans – Spain – Biography. 7. Dominicans – America – Biography. I. Title.

E125.C4C525 2012

972'.02092–dc23

[B]

2012002649

ISBN 978-1-107-00121-3 Hardback

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