

The Archaeology and History of Colonial Mexico

Mixing Epistemologies

This is an archaeological and historical study of Mexico City and Xaltocan, focusing on the early years after the Spanish conquest of the Aztec empire in 1521. The study of households excavated in Mexico City and the probate inventories of 39 colonizers provides a vivid view of the material and social lives of the Spanish in what was once the capital of the Aztec empire. Decades of archaeological and ethnohistorical research in Xaltocan, a town north of Mexico City, offers a long-term perspective on daily life, technology, the economy, and the adoption of Spanish material culture among indigenous people. Through these case studies, this book examines interpretive strategies used when working with historical documents and archaeological data. Focusing on the use of metaphors to guide interpretation, this volume explores the possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration between historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists working on this pivotal period in Latin American history.

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Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-107-11164-6 — The Archaeology and History of Colonial Mexico
 Enrique Rodríguez-Alegría
 Frontmatter
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 UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
 a department of the University of Cambridge.

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 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107111646

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First published 2016

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication data

Names: Rodríguez-Alegría, Enrique, author.

Title: The archaeology and history of colonial Mexico : mixing epistemologies / Enrique
 Rodríguez-Alegría, University of Texas, Austin.

Description: New York NY : Cambridge University Press, 2016. | Includes bibliographical
 references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016000282 | ISBN 9781107111646 (alk. paper)

Subjects: LCSH: Mexico – History – Conquest, 1519–1540. | Mexico – History – Spanish
 colony, 1540–1810. | Household archaeology – Mexico – Mexico City. | Mexico –
 Civilization – Spanish influences. | Mexico City (Mexico) – Antiquities. | Mexico –
 Antiquities.

Classification: LCC F1230 .R687 2016 | DDC 972.01-dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016000282>

ISBN 978-1-107-11164-6 Hardback

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 or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
 publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
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Acknowledgments

I must first thank the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University, where I was a Fellow in 2010–2011, and the Howard Foundation at Brown University for a fellowship in 2012–2013. The generous support from these two fellowships made it possible for me to write this book. The Fellows at CASBS provided much-needed feedback and asked questions that helped transform the manuscript, and I owe a great deal to all of them. Iris Litt, director of CASBS during my year there, was a real inspiration. I also thank the entire staff at CASBS for making it such a productive year for all of us.

Several grants funded the research portion of this project, including grants from the National Science Foundation (BCS-0612131 and SES-0309796) and from the College of Liberal Arts and the Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies at the University of Texas.

The archaeologists working at the Programa de Arqueología Urbana of the Templo Mayor Museum welcomed me and provided me access to collections and archaeological sites. I am greatly indebted to them, and I thank them for their hard work, dedication, and inspiration. Among them, I especially thank Raúl Barrera, Flor Rivas, Alvaro Barrera, Alicia Islas, Socorro Alvarado, and Francisco Hinojosa for all of their help with different aspects of this project.

I also thank the people of Xaltocan. Without them, this project would have never taken place. They welcomed me, showed me more hospitality than I thought was possible, and were a real pleasure to work with. Our crews have grown and changed throughout the years, and I feel indebted to all of them. I hope our friendship continues to grow into the future.

Samuel Wilson deserves extra special thanks for his support, mentorship, and guidance throughout the years. His comments and questions helped improve the manuscript significantly and bring it to completion. He has been a real mentor to me, and his work inspired many of the ideas in this book.

Kathy Morrison also deserves many, many thanks for her advice and mentorship. She has become more than my doctoral advisor and has helped me throughout the years in more ways than I can count, including setting me up to join Liz Brumfiel's project in Mexico for the first time. Her support at key moments helped me finish this book, and her comments also helped me improve the manuscript. Her mentorship helped me obtain the funding to carry out this project to begin with, and I am truly thankful for that.

Liz Brumfiel was a real inspiration, took me to Xaltocan with her, and later set me up to work with the Programa de Arqueología Urbana. Her comments and ideas helped improve this manuscript, and all of my work so far. I believe her influence will remain in my work forever. I have met many great colleagues working in Xaltocan with Liz, and I especially thank Kristin De Lucia and John Millhauser for their help in different aspects of my projects in Xaltocan. Their comments and ideas have greatly improved this manuscript.

My graduate students at the University of Texas also helped with their insightful comments and interesting ideas. I especially thank Shannon Iverson, Emily Dylla, and Alexander Menaker for their comments on different chapters of this book. Conversations with other colleagues helped shape the ideas in this book, and I thank Barbara Voss, Meg Conkey, Apen Ruiz, Jim Denbow, Kay Tarble, Franz Scaramelli, Sarah Graff, Guido Pezzarossi, and Krista Lewis for their help. I am surely forgetting many other colleagues who have helped form the ideas in this book in one way or another, and I will thank them profusely when the time comes.

Finally, I thank Asya Graf for making my experience working with Cambridge University Press so rewarding. The anonymous reviewers who took their time to review this manuscript and provide comments deserve all of my gratitude. Their work helped improve the manuscript greatly.