

# Notes for Conquistador Statues Dilemma

Each page was created for students/audiences/viewers to take notes on the material, while viewing the presentation.

Slide 1

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## Conquistador Statues Dilemma

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Notes:

Slide 2

## Introduction

- Controversy
- Who were the Conquistadors?
- Juan de Oñate Dilemma
- Social Justice
- Different Perspectives

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Notes:

Slide 3

## Controversy

- Debate on Social Justice over statues of the Conquistadors in America.
  - Do these statues celebrate Hispanic Heritage or insult it?



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Slide 4



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## Who were the Conquistadors?

'Conquistador' aka Conqueror

- Often times Spanish sailors, Catholic missionaries, with a majority being lower class citizens who wanted to make a name for themselves or receive a royal title.
- NOT ALWAYS Spanish! Many other European explorers became conquistadors after getting investments from Spain to work hand in hand with the Spanish. Examples include Pedro De Candida (Greek artilleryman) and Ambrosius Ehinger (German).

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## Conquistadors Purpose

- The goal for every Conquistador (made up over over 10,000 men) was to explore and conquer new land for Spain.
- Along with land, resources were a great desire for the Conquistadors as they were placed with a ton of debt after gathering many Spanish investors to fund their exploration. Gold was a need!

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## Equipment of a Conquistador!

- The equipment was impressive to say the least. With steel armor, steel weapons, and many designs. The natives with only very primitive weapons were unable to penetrate the Conquistadors steel armor in most battles.
- Conquering other lands meant bringing power and honor to the Spanish Monarchy. However, it often involves force and violence since it generally ends in war.
- Many Conquistadors added to history by conquering and establishing what is the USA today.

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## Juan de Oñate statue: Last Conquistador

Located in El Paso International Airport, Texas

It was meant as a sign of recognition and celebration of the centuries-old Hispanic presence in (what is now) the USA.

The statue was heavily criticized when the Acoma Pueblo of El Paso informs the City Council of the barbaric treatment their group received at the hands of the so-called Last Conquistador.



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### Notes:



## Social Justice

The objective of creating a fair and equal society in which each individual matters, their rights are recognized and protected, and decisions are made in ways that are fair and honest. (Oxford Reference Dictionary)

- "What is the right thing to do?"
- We all have different ideas of what justice looks like, therefore achieving justice can be complex

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## You Decide

Some feel statues commemorating Spanish Conquistadors celebrate Hispanic Heritage and history. Due to the fact it is their ancestors who established their ability to grow up in these countries. The Conquistadors achievements have added to our ancestral history and some feel justice is learning from their mistakes to be a better society.

Others are opposed to the statues, since they feel it is an attack on Hispanic Heritage. Many are calling for the removal of all Spanish Conquistador statues across the country. Not all Conquistadors were barbaric like Juan de Oñate, but at least we can all consciously agree such violence that has previously taken place is wrong and should never take place in our society.

### Notes:

## References

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