



The Tears of the INDIANS: BEING An Historical and true Account Of the Cruel Massacres and Slaughters of above Twenty Millions of innocent People; Committed by the Spaniards (1656)

By Bartolomé de las Casas

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John Phillips (1631–1706) was an English author, the brother of Edward Phillips, and a nephew of John Milton. In 1656 he translated into English Bartolomé de las Casas' Spanish "Tears of the Indians."

Bartolomé de las Casas (1484 – 1566) was a 16th-century Spanish historian, social reformer and Dominican friar. He became the first resident Bishop of Chiapas, and the first officially appointed "Protector of the Indians".

His extensive writings, the most famous being *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* and *Historia de Las Indias*, chronicle the first decades of colonization of the West Indies and focus particularly on the atrocities committed by the colonizers against the indigenous peoples.

Las Casas has also often been accused of exaggerating the atrocities he described in the Indies, some scholars holding that the initial population figures given by Las Casas were too high, making the population decline look worse than it actually was, and that epidemics of European disease were the prime cause of the population decline, not violence and exploitation.

It has also been suggested that the atrocities that Las Casas described were exaggerated or even invented, but this is not generally considered likely as Las Casas was far from the only person to be deeply worried about abuse and mistreatment of the Indians. The Dominican friars Antonio de Montesinos and Pedro de Córdoba had reported extensive violence already in the first decade of the conquest of the Indies.

Contents

TO His Highness, OLIVER, LORD PROTECTOR of the Commonwealth of

England, Scotland & Ireland, With the Dominions thereto belonging.
To all true English-men.
Tears of the Indies, or Inquisition for Bloud: being the Relation of the Spanish
Massacre there.
Of Hispaniola.
Of the Kingdomes which the Island of Hispaniola did contain.
Of the Islands St. John and Jamaica.
Of the Island of Cuba.
Of the Province of Nicaraqua.
Of New Spain.
Of New Spain in particular.
Of the Kingdome and Province of Guatimala.
Of New Spain. As also of Panucon, and Xalisco.
Of the Kingdome of Yucatan.
Of the Province of Sancta Martha.
Of the Province of Carthagena.
Of the shore of Pearls, of Paria, and of the Island of the Trinity.
Of the River of Yuya Pari.
Of the Kingdome of Venecuela.
Of the Provinces of the Country of Florida.
Of the River of Plate, or the Silver River.
Of the great Kingdomes, and large Provinces of Peru.
Of the New Kingdome of GRANATA.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

In 1502, he went to Hispaniola. He became one of the great students and chroniclers of the Americas under the Conquest, and argued for the humane treatment of indigenous peoples.

John Phillips served as assistant director of the Moody Correspondence School as well as director of the Emmaus Correspondence School, one of the world's largest Bible correspondence ministries. He also taught in the Moody Evening School and on the Moody Broadcasting radio network. Now retired, Dr. Phillips and his wife, Betty, live in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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