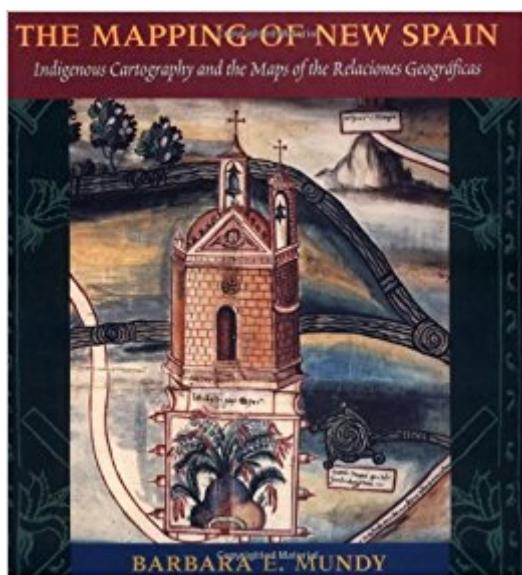


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# The Mapping Of New Spain: Indigenous Cartography And The Maps Of The Relaciones Geograficas



## Synopsis

To learn about its territories in the New World, Spain commissioned a survey of Spanish officials in Mexico between 1578 and 1584, asking for local maps as well as descriptions of local resources, history, and geography. In *The Mapping of New Spain*, Barbara Mundy illuminates both the Amerindian (Aztec, Mixtec, and Zapotec) and the Spanish traditions represented in these maps and traces the reshaping of indigene world views in the wake of colonization.

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To learn about its territories in the New World, Spain commissioned a survey of Spanish officials in Mexico between 1578 and 1584, asking for local maps as well as descriptions of local resources, history, and geography. In *The Mapping of New Spain*, Barbara Mundy illuminates both the Amerindian (Aztec, Mixtec, and Zapotec) and the Spanish traditions represented in these maps and traces the reshaping of indigene world views in the wake of colonization.

Although Cortes conquered the Aztec empire in 1521, imperial Spain knew little about the Mexican territory under its control when Philip II acceded to the throne in 1556. As part of a vast project to learn about its territories in the New World, Spain commissioned a survey - the *Relaciones Geograficas* - of Spanish officials in Mexico between 1578 and 1584, asking for local maps as well as descriptions of local resources, history, and geography. Offering the most complete contemporary record of what sixteenth-century Mexico looked like, the sixty-nine manuscript maps from this survey also highlight the gulf between colonial and indigenous conceptions of Mexico. In

The Mapping of New Spain, Barbara Mundy illuminates the complex cultural negotiations that colonists and indigenes undertook in mapping the colony. Her book explains both the Amerindian (Aztec, Mixtec, and Zapotec) and the Spanish traditions represented in these early colonial maps, and traces the gradual reshaping of indigene world views in the wake of colonization. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is an interesting book. I recommend it for people interested in this historical period. Good quality. It can be very good to have in electronic format.

This is a wonderful glimpse into the development of detailed maps of Central America. It expresses the necessity of a country to be aware of the resources it possesses and the lengths to which it must go to obtain this information. Another good book along these same lines is "Mapping and Empire" by Matthew Edney, which describes the process of mapmaking the British government undertook in India. Overall, this is a great book.

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