

THE PROBLEM: COLONIAL MYTHMAKING AND DISTORTED HISTORY

As a scholar and writer for over thirty years in Academia, it has become clear that there remain in the educational system and mainstream America a number of myths regarding Native cultures of the Americas. This has subsequently contributed to a misunderstanding, to negative attitudes and misinformation regarding Native-Americans and Spanish-Speaking populations in the U.S. As the fastest rising population in the U.S. and already becoming the largest, the Spanish-Speaking population remains shrouded in myths and misinformation particularly as it addresses the issue of identity and Native American ancestry. This historical distortion can be traced to the early beginnings of Conquest by the Spanish newcomers to the Americas. This was due to Inquisitional censorship of all written documents with the objective of hegemony and the proselytizing of the Native cultures. The result was a not only historical and cultural distortion of Native cultures but also the injection of a Greco-Roman philosophical paradigm to interpret an essentially non-Western Culture and Society. It created an educational system that invented all manner of myth with respect to Native culture, the Mother Culture of all Spanish-Speaking Mestizo populations. As a consequence, it has created a misunderstanding by both the mainstream society population and the Mestizo population with regard to identity and Native cultural ancestry. In Academia, the problem has been one of reiterating questionable Post-Conquest documents tampered by Inquisitional tribunals since 1550 and the projection of a Western philosophical paradigm into the interpretation of non-Western autochthonous cultures. This is inconsistent with the philosophy and metaphysics of Native Americans. The injection of Western Christian concepts of Hell, Satan, Purgatory, Evil, Prostitution, Theft, Human Sacrifice, Polytheism, Idolatry, Imperialism, Plutocracy and Institutional Religions within the historical and cultural framework of autochthonous cultures is not only erroneous but absurd from a Native philosophical and metaphysical framework. United States' historians in the XIX century unfortunately borrowed these negative perceptions from Spanish chroniclers and writers and included them in the history of the U.S. These further, contributed to the formation of racist attitudes within the mainstream population for more than a century. The rectification of the cultural history of these cultures is ultimately important as we begin the XXI century. It will provide a positive image and self-esteem as stereotypes and negative misinformation is eliminated. Students and teachers as well as public officials in the U.S will have the opportunity to learn of the positive contributions of Native and Mestizo Cultures of the past as well as to their contribution in the formation of the United States. Currently, the Spanish-Speaking populations suffer a deplorable 53% dropout rate in the public schools. There are not enough models of Spanish-Speaking teachers in the urban areas where 85% of the Spanish-Speaking population resides. Non-Spanish-Speaking teachers too often cannot relate to the Mestizo population because he or she does not have sufficient

knowledge of that culture. New knowledge and understanding is vital to the survival and unity of this Nation.

There is a need to ask the difficult questions and discover what has been left out of the textbooks. For example:

- What was the first Civil Rights Movement in Texas for its Spanish-Speaking citizens? Who was the first woman activist in this effort?
- What Mexican woman was known as the Angel of Goliad? Connection to Texas troops?
- What is the correlation between the Christian Crusades and the Spanish Conquest?
- In terms of religious and deleterious propaganda ploys by the Spanish, what experience did Jews and Native Americans share in common?
- Who began the practice of scalping and mutilation in the U.S.?
- What are the connections between September 11 and the Middle Ages? What is the origin of the jihad? Who invented religious wars during the Middle Ages?
- What are the autochthonous philosophical and metaphysical factors that contradict colonial myths of Native peoples created by the Spanish?
- How was the role of women in pre-Columbian Society different from her Western counterpart?
- What is the connection between Native “religion” and Astronomy and Mathematics?
- What autochthonous Nation created precise Solar, Lunar, Martian, Mercurial and Venusian calendars?

Too often special interest groups block the dissemination of valuable historical and cultural information whether it is at the Board of Education or at the Academic Press level. Eagle Feather Publishing and Research Institute will function independently with the goal of filling the gaps of Native American/Hispanic and other Ethnic and gender groups distributing historical and cultural information in a fair and equitable manner and as a service to the local, regional, national and international community.

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