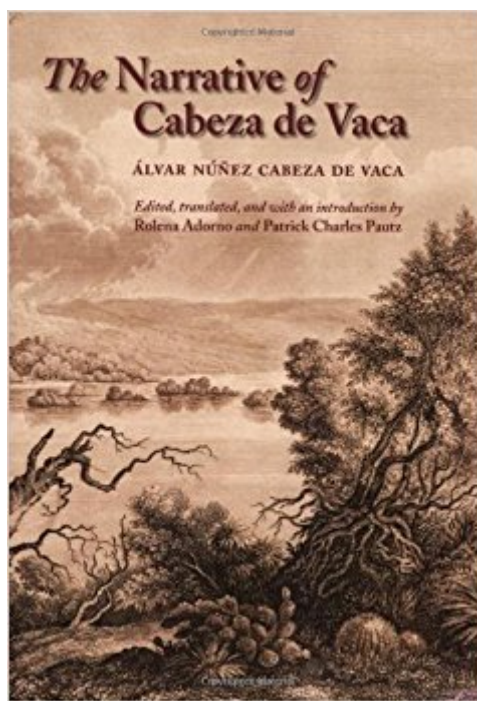


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The Narrative Of Cabeza De Vaca



Synopsis

This edition of Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca's *Relación* offers readers Rolena Adorno and Patrick Charles Pautz's celebrated translation of Cabeza de Vaca's account of the 1527 Pánfilo de Narváez expedition to North America. The dramatic narrative tells the story of some of the first Europeans and the first-known African to encounter the North American wilderness and its Native inhabitants. It is a fascinating tale of survival against the highest odds, and it highlights Native Americans and their interactions with the newcomers in a manner seldom seen in writings of the period. In this English-language edition, reproduced from their award-winning three-volume set, Adorno and Pautz supplement the engrossing account with a general introduction that orients the reader to Cabeza de Vaca's world. They also provide explanatory notes, which resolve many of the narrative's most perplexing questions. This highly readable translation fires the imagination and illuminates the enduring appeal of Cabeza de Vaca's experience for a modern audience.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cabeza de Vaca's story, told in his own words, is a priceless view into a world that is no more, the world of North America before Europeans arrived. It's a view into how the Native Americans really lived, not how scholars think they lived. The Indians of the Texas coast have long been reported as ferocious cannibals, even in present-day textbooks. But these same Indians greeted the freezing, starving shipwreck victims, of which Cabeza de Vaca was one, with tears and compassion, taking them back to their campfires and saving their lives. The entire narrative gives glimpses into the interactions amongst tribes, customs, beliefs and superstitions, survival techniques (what they ate)

and all manner of other interesting facts about how these Indians lived. Sadly, before any other person could live among them, know them and tell their stories, most of the Native American tribes that Cabeza de Vaca lived and travelled among, were decimated by European diseases. Their history is, otherwise, lost. They have been eradicated, so this one narrative is now their story, too. This is why I believe it is priceless, and I often wonder why it is so seemingly overlooked in our history books and resources. In addition to providing important details on what the entire south central region of the US was like before Europeans arrived, the Narrative is extremely entertaining in the way that a good book or modern movie would be. Cabeza de Vaca was like Job, a well-educated adventurer, a Spanish conquistador off to find a fortune in gold (this was not an unrealistic quest, as many had already done so and many would in the years ahead). He was at the top of his game in that day and age, at least by European standards.

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