This is a short history of the age of exploration and the conquest of the Americas told through the experience of Bartolomé de las Casas, a Dominican friar who fervently defended the American Indians, and the single most important figure of the period after Columbus.

- Explores the period known as the Encounter, which was characterized by intensive conflict between Europeans and the people of the Americas following Columbus’s voyages

- Argues that Las Casas, ‘protector of Indians,’ was primarily motivated by Scripture in his crusade for justice and equality for American Indians

- Draws on the 14 volume Complete Works of Las Casas as a window into his mind and actions

- Encourages students to understand history through the viewpoint of individuals living it
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lawrence A. Clayton is Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of History at the University of Alabama. His books include *A History of Modern Latin America, second edition* (2004), *Peru and the United States: The Condor and the Eagle* (1999), and *The De Soto Chronicles* (editor, 1993). He is currently writing the first major biography of Las Casas in more than a generation.

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