

The Entradas of the 16th and 17th Century

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SJC

2nd Form

Encomienda System

- For nearly 2 centuries the Spaniards were trying to control the Maya of Belize.
- Was a grant of Maya workers to Spanish settlers.
- ‘Encomenderos’

Cont.

- Convert to Christianity and treat them well.
- Least concern for the Encomenderos.

“Entrada”

- 1530s-1600s
- Short intrusions or ‘entradas’ into Belize to dominate the Maya.
- Encomienda- form of dominance
- Unsuccessful Catholic Church missions with buildings in Maya communities.

Cont.

- Faced by continuous Maya resistance

Belize Maya Provinces: Ancient Chetumal

- Chactemal/Ancient Chetumal province of the Yucatan Maya.
- Lake Bacalar to New River Lagoon in Belize.
- Rich in cacao and honey







Cont.

- Its main town was Chetumal, by Corozal Bay, possibly ancient Maya city of Santa Rita.
- Lamanai or Indian Church





Belize Maya Provinces: Dzuluinicob

- Foreigners or Foreign Men
- New River in O.W to Sibun River
- Main community- Tipu
- Tipu- now called Negroman in Cayo District
- Southern Belize Maya influence



Alonso Davila

- Established a 'villa' (settlement) at Chactemal.
- 50 men and 13 horses
- Renamed "Villa Real"
- Nachancan was guided by Gonzalo Guerrero, a Spanish renegade.

Cont.

- Continuous Spanish-Maya attacks
- Chetumal/Villa real was abandoned by Davila.
- Coast of Belize to reach Honduras
- Maya defeated this first Spanish entrada.

Cont.

- 1618 Chetumal disappeared due to the Pacheco family.
- Carried out the most savage conquest.
- Chetumal and Dzuluinicob
- Encomienda as Mayas flee to southern Belize in remote areas.

Religious Entrada

- Lamanai or Indian Church, called 'Lama anayin' (Submerged crocodile).
- Had a church identical to the one at Tipu.
- First Church was built
- Importance of Lamanai to the Spaniards

Cont.

- A second church was built by converted Maya.
- Largest and most long lasting structure by Spaniards in Belize.
- Church was burned down, joint with Tipu to rebel.

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Franciscan Entradas

- Two of their priest came from Merida and stopped at Tipu.
- Tried to convert the Maya
- Seized and flogged them.
- Manage to take over Tipu and send the Mayas to Lake Peten Itza, Guatemala area.

Dominican Friar

- Joseph Delgado, 1677
- Went from Guatemala to Belize, to Merida.
- Was captured by English pirates
- Was taken to St. George's Caye

Cont.

- He was later released
- English pirates were already in Belize by 1677
- ‘Baymen’

Effects of Entradas

- Reduced the Belize Maya population mainly due to European diseases.
- Disrupted Maya social life (S & W Belize)
- Conversion was useless
- Spanish priests including Diego Delgado lost his life trying to convert the Maya.



Why the Spaniards did not settle in Belize?

- Opposition from the Maya (conversion and encomienda)
- Did not effectively occupy the area now call Belize by the time the British arrived.
- British were on the mainland and at St. George's Caye.

Why the Spaniards did not settle in Belize?

- England did not claim Belize but it continued to be home of the settlers.