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Early European Explorers to Colorado

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Early European explorers to Colorado

Colorado goes down in the books of history as one of the major cities that share the history of early explorations. Various explorers were quite optimistic about some fortunes located in this city. Economic and political motives are the main driving forces behind the activities of exploration associated with this moment of history. Since time immemorial, political and economic supremacy have always been the major aspirations of mankind; thus, the two factors contribute much towards most of the early explorations.

Friar Marcos de Niza comes in as the first explorer in this discussion. Niza's mysterious journey forms the basis for his exploration history. Viceroy Mendoza sends him North from Mexico in the search for some wealthy cities rumored to be around the North frontier of New Spain in the year 1538.¹ In the year 1539, he comes up with a report that declares the discovery of some cities-in a province called Cibola. However, Niza does not get into the province, because a companion died before entering in the area. Claims from popular writers are that Niza attests to seeing gold. However, that is disputable, because the associated report does not reflect it.

Francisco Coronado is the second explorer that comes to mind whenever Colorado's exploration history gets mentioned. History at the early times has rumors about the existence of a treasure in northern Mexico. Spaniards learn this, and thus, their next move is to send some expeditions in search of the treasure. Niza lies about having seen a golden city sparks Francisco Coronado together with more than a thousand soldiers to make a move. They set out in an effort

¹ Douglas Preston, *Cities of gold: a journey across the American Southwest* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico, 199).

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to find the seven historical cities of gold.² It frustrates them in a big way to find out that there are no gold mines. They return as broken men.

Legends of gold and treasure play a pivotal role in making the Southwestern United States history what it is at present.³ Clamor for wealth presents itself as a major driving force for the various activities on man in history and the present. Nations associated with great wealth seem to play a leading role in matters related to the economy globally. They earn more respect; hence, their words are final, and they sideline the views of less privileged nations as they wish. The seven cities of Cibola legend, as a matter of fact, is a manifestation of how mankind, since time immemorial has tried to accumulate wealth in an effort to attain economic prowess.

As history reveals, the more stable nations also play a pivotal role in the world's politics. With the excellent financing they are in a position to provide, it is very possible for them to finance major troops that can help back up a stable political system. Coronado received a company of an army of over a thousand in a quest to find gold mines. Politics shapes up from such occurrences in history. It comes out quite clearly for anyone interested in history that today's economic and political structures borrow much from the past occurrences. However, it is also very true that a great metamorphosis along these lines is clear over time. Explorers played a big role that anyone should recognize.

² Ibid

³ Jack Scheffler Innis, *San Diego legends: the events, people, and places that made history* (San Diego, Calif: Sunbelt Publications, 2004)

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