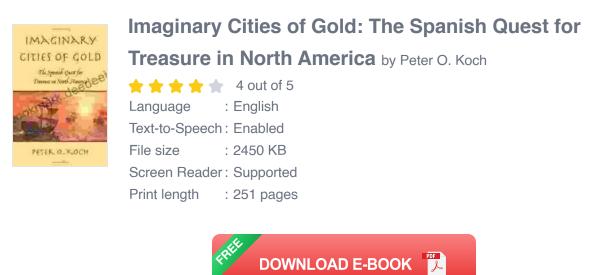
# The Spanish Quest for Treasure in North America: A Golden Obsession



The Spanish quest for treasure in North America is a story of exploration, conquest, and greed. It is a story that began in the early 16th century with the arrival of Spanish conquistadors in the New World and continued for centuries as Spain sought to expand its empire and find new sources of wealth.

The Spanish were initially drawn to North America by reports of gold and silver. In 1519, Hernán Cortés led an expedition that conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico, and the Spanish soon began to plunder the vast wealth of the Aztecs. In 1532, Francisco Pizarro led an expedition that conquered the Inca Empire in Peru, and the Spanish again plundered a vast amount of wealth.

The Spanish also sought to find the legendary El Dorado, a mythical city of gold that was said to be located in South America. In 1541, Francisco de

Orellana led an expedition down the Amazon River in search of El Dorado, but he never found it.

The Spanish quest for treasure in North America had a profound impact on the region. The Spanish introduced new diseases to the Americas, which decimated the native population. The Spanish also enslaved many Native Americans and forced them to work in mines and plantations.

The Spanish quest for treasure in North America also led to the establishment of Spanish colonies in the region. The Spanish founded the cities of St. Augustine, Florida, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the 16th century. These cities became important centers of Spanish trade and commerce.

The Spanish quest for treasure in North America ended in the 19th century with the Mexican-American War. In 1848, the United States acquired the Mexican Cession, which included the present-day states of California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. This acquisition ended Spain's colonial empire in North America.

The Spanish quest for treasure in North America is a complex and fascinating story. It is a story of exploration, conquest, and greed. It is a story that had a profound impact on the region and its people.

### The Conquistadors

The Spanish conquistadors were a group of adventurers and soldiers who played a major role in the Spanish quest for treasure in North America. The conquistadors were often ruthless and greedy, but they were also brave and determined. The most famous conquistador was Hernán Cortés. Cortés led the expedition that conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico in 1519. Cortés was a brilliant military leader and a skilled diplomat. He was also a ruthless and ambitious man who was driven by a desire for gold and glory.

Another famous conquistador was Francisco Pizarro. Pizarro led the expedition that conquered the Inca Empire in Peru in 1532. Pizarro was a ruthless and ambitious man who was driven by a desire for gold and glory. He was also a skilled military leader and a skilled diplomat.

### **The Spanish Colonies**

The Spanish established a number of colonies in North America, including St. Augustine, Florida, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. These colonies were important centers of Spanish trade and commerce.

St. Augustine was founded in 1565 by Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. St. Augustine was the first permanent European settlement in the present-day United States.

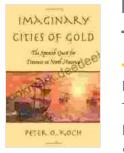
Santa Fe was founded in 1610 by Juan de Oñate. Santa Fe was the capital of the Spanish colony of New Mexico.

#### The Mexican-American War

The Mexican-American War was a war between the United States and Mexico from 1846 to 1848. The war ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ceded the Mexican Cession to the United States.

The Mexican-American War was a major turning point in the history of North America. The war ended Spain's colonial empire in North America and led to the expansion of the United States.

The Spanish quest for treasure in North America is a story of exploration, conquest, and greed. It is a story that had a profound impact on the region and its people.



 Imaginary Cities of Gold: The Spanish Quest for

 Treasure in North America by Peter O. Koch

 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ↓ 4 out of 5

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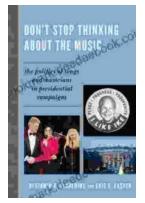
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