

# Methods in Historical Research and Exposition:

*A Process-Based Approach to World History*



## *LECTURE IV: Interpreting Imperfect Information*

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# Response Paper II

- Ad hominem argumentation
- Citing sources within sources
  - Order of argumentation
- Starting sentences with “there”
- Ending sentences with prepositions
- Reason “why” and reason “because”
  - Following a verb with a colon
- Following “Bibliography” with a colon
  - Spacing before parentheses
    - It’s in the details

Response Paper II

Concerns?

# Ad Hominem Argumentation



# Citing Sources within Sources

Louis Zukofsky, "Sincerity and Objectification," *Poetry* 37 (February 1931): 269, quoted in Bonnie Costello, *Marianne Moore: Imaginary Possessions* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1981), 78.

Bonnie Costello, *Marianne Moore: Imaginary Possessions* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1981), 78, quoting Louis Zukofsky, "Sincerity and Objectification," *Poetry* 37 (February 1931): 269.

# Order of Argumentation



# Starting Sentences with “There”

There is no reason for starting a sentence with “there.”

No reason exists for starting a sentence with “there.”

Starting a sentence with “there” has no reason.

# Starting Sentences with “There”

No subject →

No action →

No movement →

No image

# Ending Sentences with Prepositions

He's the one I went to the movies last night **with**.

He's the one **with whom** I went to the movies last night.

The value of the real estate **he invested in** is climbing steadily.

The value of the real estate **in which he invested** is climbing steadily.

# Reason Why and Reason Because

*Reason “why” and reason “because” are ALWAYS incorrect.*

My favorite mistake: The reason why is because I said so.

Correct: **The reason that is I said so.**

# Following a verb with a colon

The pulses commonly included in our daily diet include:  
lentils, peas, and soybeans.

The pulses commonly included in our daily diet **include**  
**the following:** lentils, peas, and soybeans.

Following “Bibliography” with a colon

Don't.

Incorrect:

Bibliography:

Correct:

Bibliography

# Spacing Before Parentheses

She was so happy (according to what he said, at least) that she could not speak a word without laughing a bit.

She was so **happy (according to what he said, at least)** that she could not speak a word without laughing a bit.

# Spacing Before Parentheses

She was so happy (according to what he said, at least) that she could not speak a word without laughing a bit.

She was so **happy (according to what he said, at least)** that she could not speak a word without laughing a bit.

# It's In The Details

Spelling  
errors

Source *Packet!*

Misquoting  
sources

Contractions

## Lesson IV: Interpreting Imperfect Information

“Historical criticism has only one function: To answer the question asked of it by the historian: ‘I believe this document teaches me this: may I trust it to do that?’”

(Clendinnen)

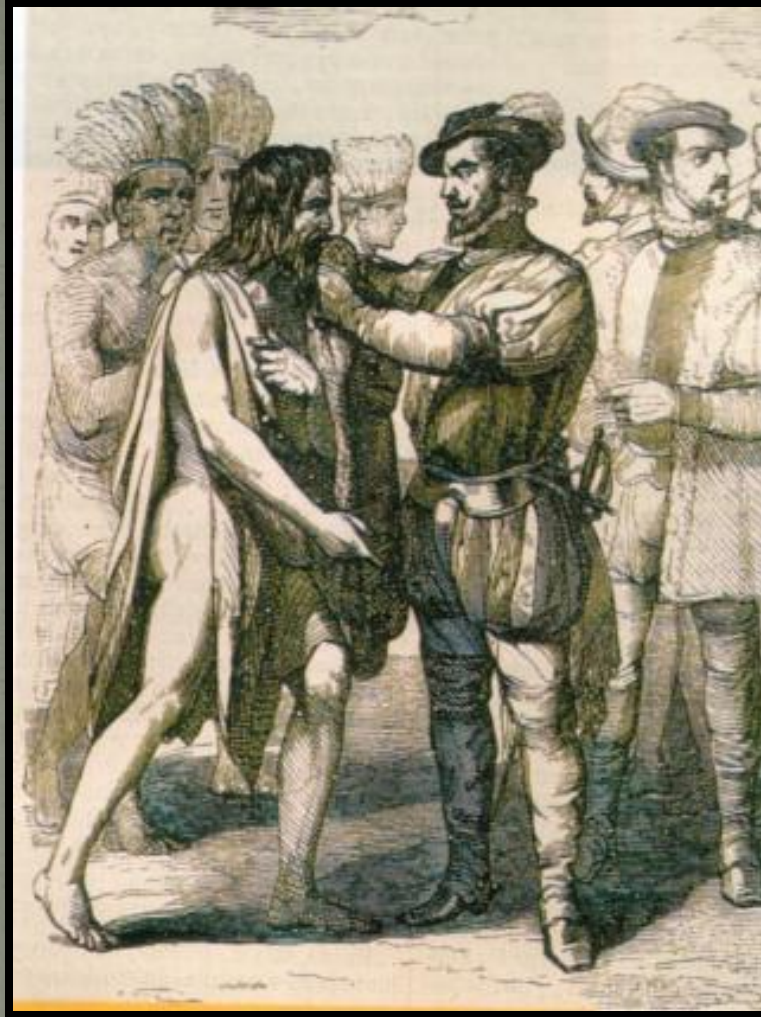


Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico





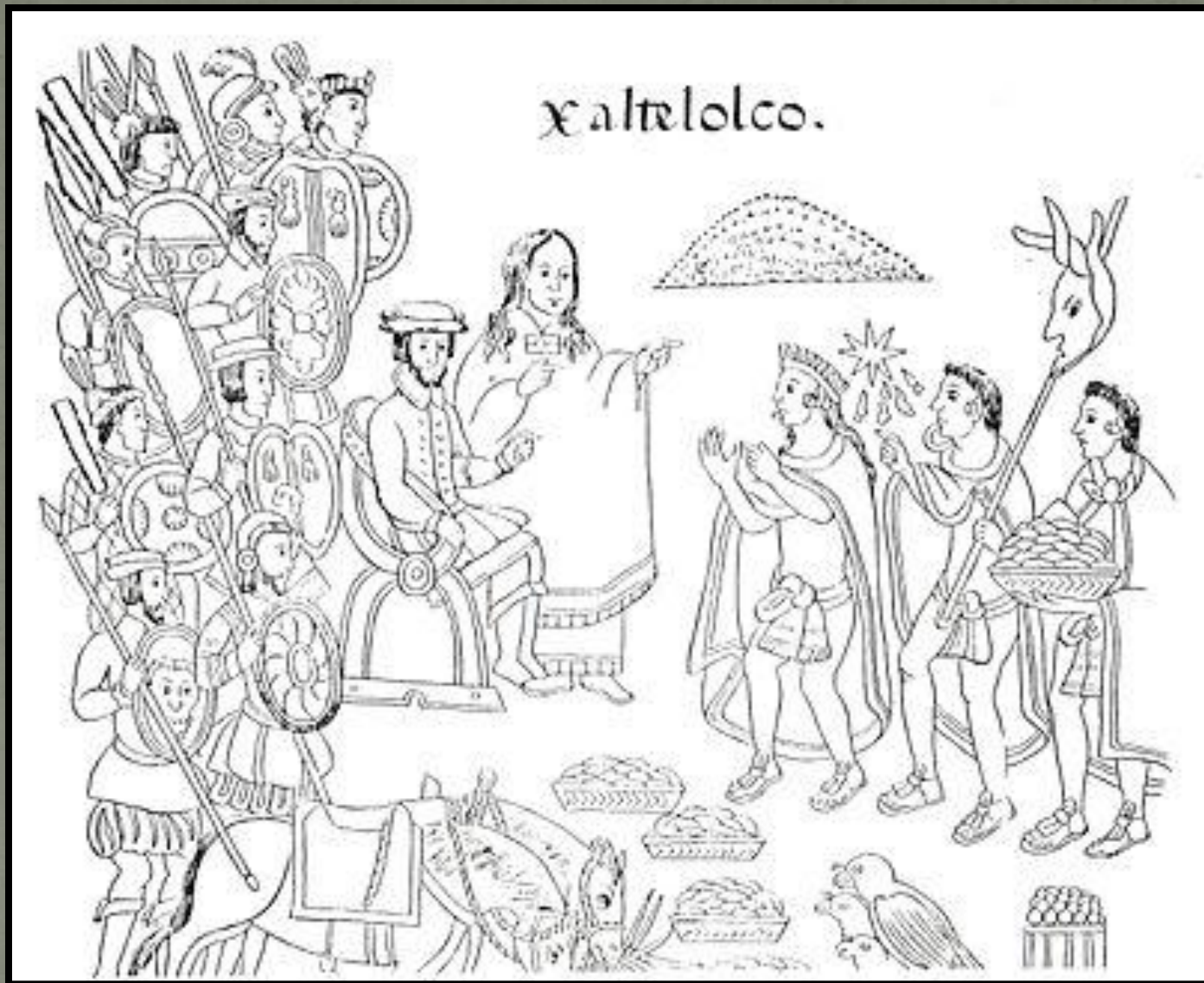
February 1519: Landing in Mexico



Gerónimo de Aguilar: Former Mayan slave; translator for Cortés



April 1519: La Malinche (Doña Marina)  
Female captive from Chontal Maya; translator and companion



October 1519: Alliance with Tlaxcala





Moctezuma II



Cortés as Quetzalcoatl?

*More than 600 gentlemen and several lords gathered in the yard of the largest temple; some said there were more than a thousand there. They made a lot of noise with their drums, shells, bugles, and hendidos, which sounded like a loud whistle. Preparing their festival, they were naked, but covered with precious stones, pearls, necklaces, belts, bracelets, many jewels of gold, silver, and mother-of-pearl, wearing very rich feathers on their heads. They performed a dance called the mazeualiztli, which is called that because it is a holiday from work [symbolized by the word for farmer, macehaulli]. . . . While the Mexica gentlemen were dancing in the temple yard of Vitcilopuchtli [Huitzilopochtli], Pedro de Alvarado went there.*

*Whether on [the basis of] his own opinion or in an agreement decided by everyone, I don't know, but some say he had been warned that the Indian nobles of the city had assembled to plot the mutiny and the rebellion, which they later carried out; others, believe that [the Spaniards] went to watch them perform this famous and praised dance, and seeing how rich they were and wanting the gold the Indians were wearing, he [Alvarado] covered each of the entrances with ten or twelve Spaniards and went inside with more than fifty [Spaniards], and without remorse and lacking any Christian piety, they brutally stabbed and killed the Indians, and took what they were wearing.*

## Pedro de Alvaro's Main Temple Massacre: Spanish Account

*At this time, when everyone was enjoying the fiesta, when everyone was already dancing, when everyone was already singing, when song was linked to song and the songs roared like waves, in that precise moment the Spaniards determined to kill people...*

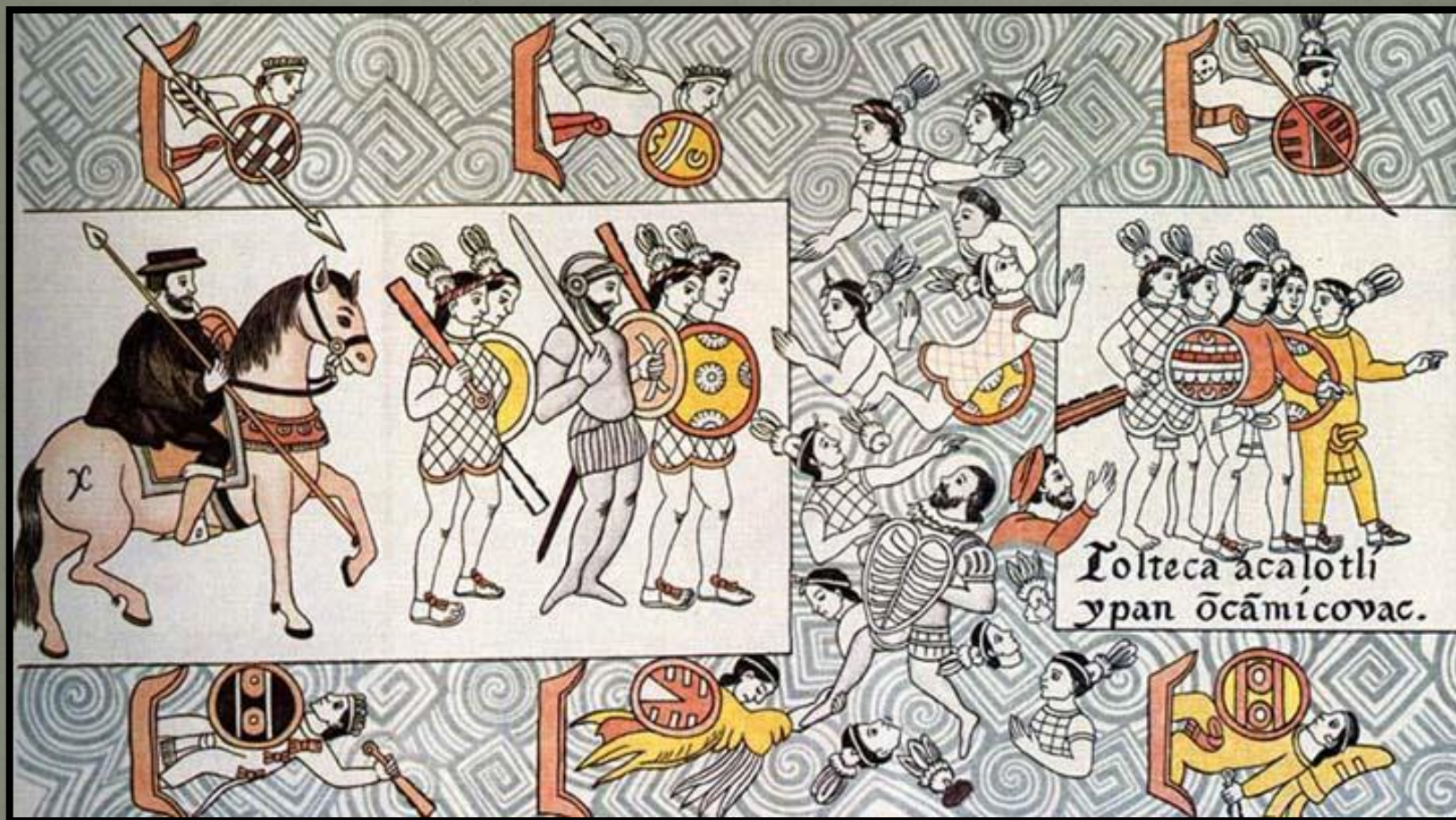
*They came on foot, carrying swords and wooden and metal shields. Immediately, they surrounded those who danced, then rushed to the place where the drums were played. They attacked the man who was drumming and cut off both his arms. Then they cut off his head [with such a force] that it flew off, falling far away.*

*At that moment, they then attacked all the people, stabbing them, spearing them, wounding them with their swords. They struck some from behind, who fell instantly to the ground with their entrails hanging out [of their bodies]. They cut off the heads of some and smashed the heads of others into little pieces...*

*Some tried to escape, but the Spaniards murdered them at the gates while they laughed. Others climbed the walls, but they could not save themselves. Others entered the communal house, where they were safe for awhile. Others lay down among the victims and pretended to be dead. But if they stood up again they [the Spaniards] would see them and kill them.*

*The blood of the warriors ran like water as they ran, forming pools, which widened, as the smell of blood and entrails fouled the air.*

## Pedro de Alvaro's Main Temple Massacre: Aztec Account



July 1520: Flee from Tenochtitlan (Noche Triste)



1520-1521 Siege of Tenochtitlan



August 1521: Capture of Cuauhtémoc and end of Aztecs

# Response Paper: Might Makes Right

- You are historians adding a summary of Cortes' conquest of the Aztecs to a reputed college world history text.
  - Dates, places, names
  - Why did Cortes come to Mexico?
  - What were the major stages in the war between the Spanish and the Aztecs?
  - What strategies did each side use in their attempts to defeat the other?
  - Why did the Spanish ultimately conquer the Aztecs?
  - How has the outcome of this clash between cultures affected the world since?

# Response Paper: Interpreting Imperfect Information

- Summary no more than 500 words
- Include one picture of a primary source with a caption of at least 25 words
- Other than this primary source, you should not use ANY other sources except for the reading and the lecture.
- In 200 words or fewer, explain the biases that might be present in your work.
- Use at least 5 vocabulary words from Lessons I through III
- Turn into [mihrae.assignments@gmail.com](mailto:mihrae.assignments@gmail.com)