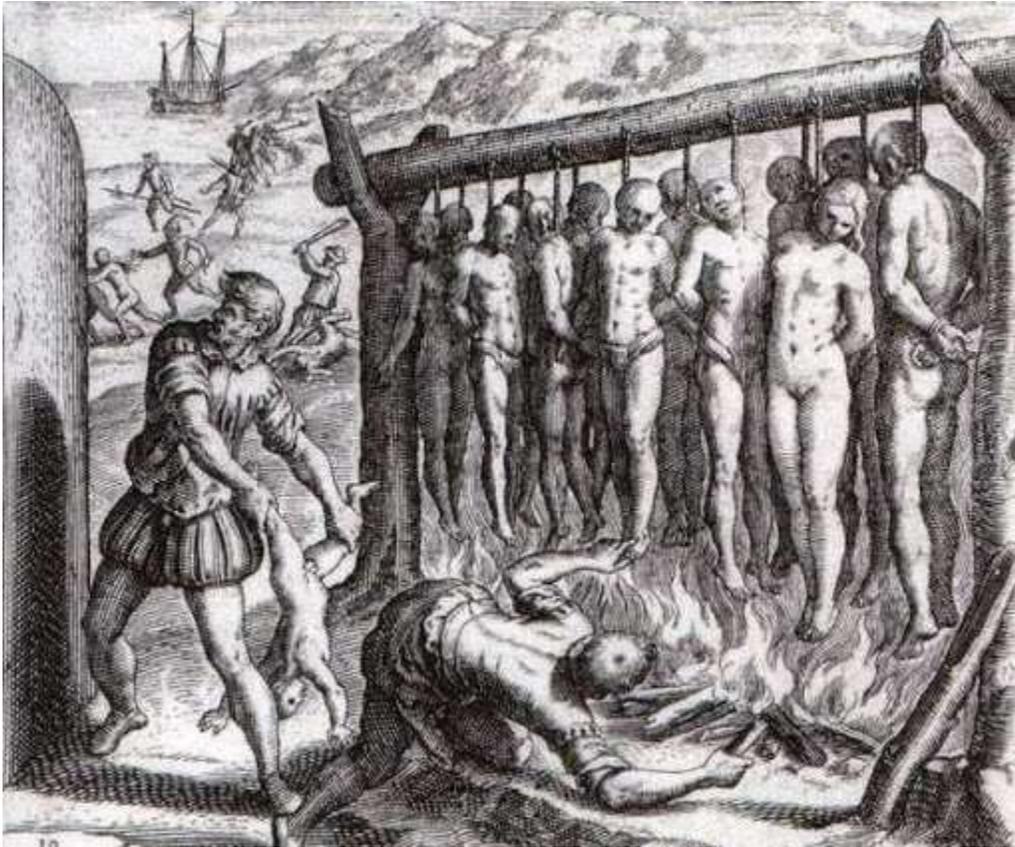


What made Native American peoples vulnerable to conquest by European adventurers?

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Being a survivalist, we can, and should learn how the future will revolve if we take heed of the lessons kindly provided to us from history. A typical example would be the Native American's, and how they were vulnerable when the white man arrived on the continent. There were several traits which made this particular group of people vulnerable to conquest by European adventurers. First, the people themselves were ill equipped to deal with the European invaders. Their numbers were quickly reduced as a result of famine, forced labor, epidemics involving contact with European diseases, and wars.

They were unaccustomed to the economic, political, and military aspects associated with the Europeans. They lacked the organization, and political unity to resist the conquering people. The various tribes were frequently in conflict with one, and others as they went about their daily lives competing with each other for land, and food. As an example, over the years the Aztecs accumulated many enemies especially within their own tribe. This conflict resulted from competition for territorial rights, acquisition of wealth, and the practice of using their captive enemies as religious sacrifices. Cortés exploited this trait by forming alliances with the opposing tribes. In contrast to the Aztecs lack of unity, the Spanish explorers were a highly unified society.

The Native Americans possessed the necessary skills to work with copper, but failed to develop those needed to smelt iron, thus they lacked sufficient technology to wage war upon the invaders. When the Europeans arrived in the New World they were welcomed by the Native American's. The Indians regard their visitors as wonderful warriors with their dress, beards, and their ships, but more so for the technology they brought with them. The native population was amazed at this technology, such as their steel knives, and swords, the arquebus which is a sort of muzzle loader, the cannon, copper, and brass kettles, mirrors, hawk bells, and earrings which were used as trading goods, along with other items which were unusual to their way of life. This was rightfully so, since the natives lacked the ability to create these amazing inventions used by the Europeans. Unfortunately, the European visitors used their weapons of war to inflict great amounts of damage to the natives.

It did not take long before serious problems began to develop. Upon the arrival of the Europeans there were 7 million Native Americans in North America. Most lived in hunter-gather, or agricultural types of communities. The largest problem encountered by the Native American's was their lack of immunity toward European diseases. This lack of immunity in these communities towards the European diseases took their toll among the Indian tribes. Smallpox was a common threat frequently contracted by the Indians from the European people.

The Native Americans soon began to dislike the Europeans, and their beliefs. They often viewed the white man as despicable, and stingy with their wealth. This was something that the Indians had not previously encountered. In their social order things were freely shared. The explorers were deemed to be insatiable in their desire for furs, and hides. They particularly disliked the European's intolerance for their religious beliefs, eating habits, sexual and marital arrangements, and other aspects of their customs.

The Native Americans were used to being in tune with the spirit of nature, but to the Europeans nature was an obstacle in their path. They viewed the gifts of nature as an endless supply of resources such as the forest having an abundance of timber, a beaver colony possessing unlimited pelts, and the buffalo with many robes. To the explorers even the Native American's were deemed a resource ripe for religious conversion, or as a means of free labor.

In seeing what happened to the Native American's during that time period of our history we should rightfully take a clue, and attempt to prevent any such reoccurrences in our survival group should the SHTF. It is our responsibility to ourselves, and to those people who place their trust in us to learn from our past. Could these things happen to us? They certainly can. Roaming marauders could very well arrive at our doorsteps, and take all our stocked food supplies, forcing your small group into a period of famine. They may need manpower to work their farms, or whatever it is that they have planned, and therefore would force you, and your people into established labor camps. Perhaps they may even bring with them a series of serious epidemics with the capabilities of wiping out large portions of your survival group.

Be aware of the economic, political and military aspects of society even after the SHTF. Be prepared would be a motto to be followed even then as it is now. Do not be in conflict with your neighboring survival retreats, as you may need to band together to fend off a common enemy. Learn as many skills as you can while you can. After the infrastructure has fallen it may be too late to learn much of anything. If you fail to manage your talent, and resources properly you too can experience a decline in your numbers, remember, the Indians dropped drastically from their original 7 million people population. Don't become a statistic for some future writer, and plan now to get properly prepared while you can.