

# The Pueblo Nations: Our Resilient Neighbors

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A Series of  
Presentations and  
Discussion

First Presbyterian  
Church Santa Fe

October 2021



# Four Sessions

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8 Centuries of History

Survival under US  
Governance

Restoration of Rights

Presbyterian Call to  
Action

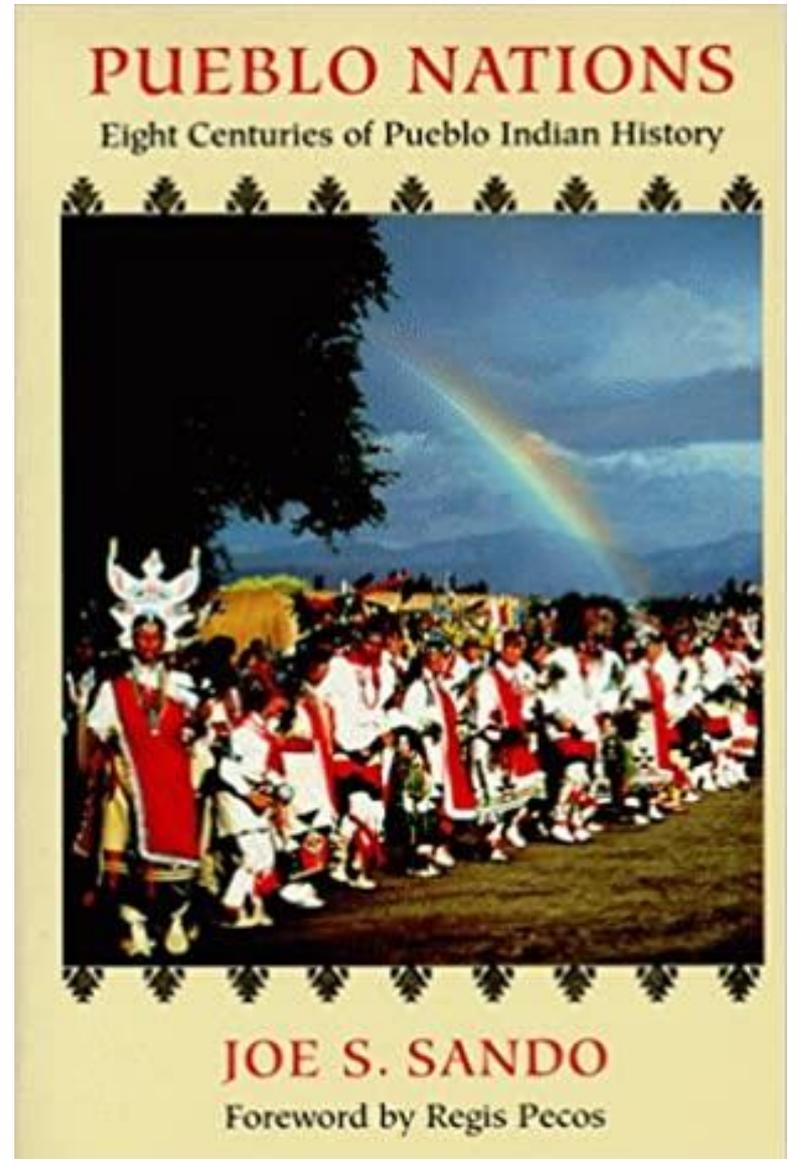


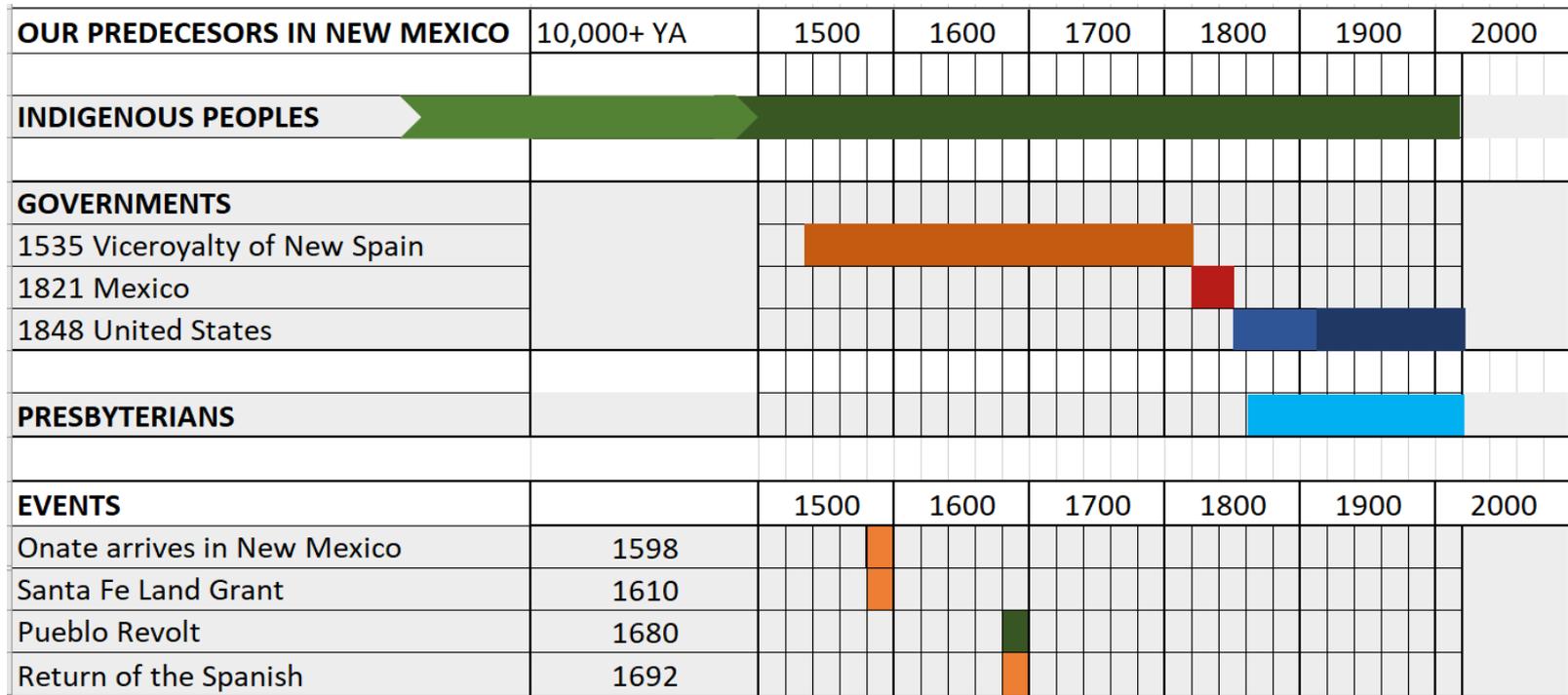
# 8 Centuries of History

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“Pueblo Nations is the story of a vital and creative culture, of a people sustained by ages-old traditions and beliefs, who have adapted to the radical challenges of the modern world.”

“...presents a detailed account of the unremitting struggle to retain sovereignty, land and water rights in the face of powerful outside pressures.”





# The Pueblos in the 16th Century



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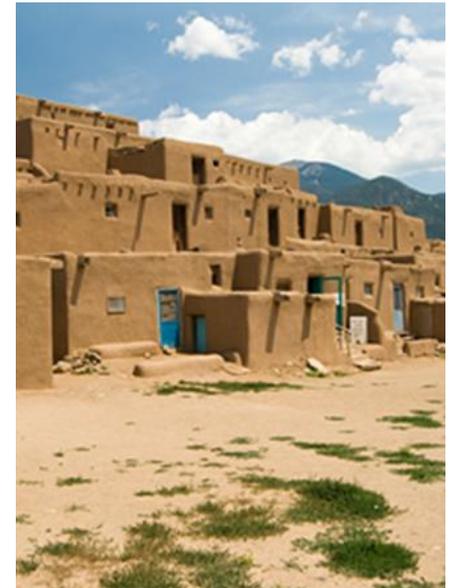
- Peaceful settled communities
- Well-organized system of self government
- Efficient system of law and order that protected society as well as the rights of the individual
- Agrarian economy – corn, squash, beans and other crops
- Each individual had a role to play in work and worship
- Oral system of maintaining history, which had a reverent place in society



# The Pueblos in the 16th Century

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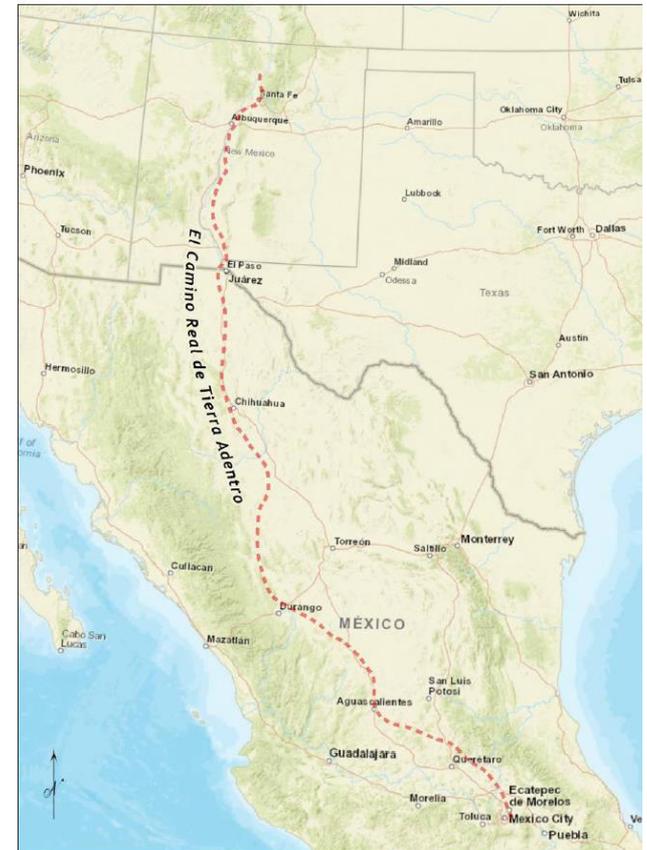
“The Pueblos have no word that translates as “religion.” The knowledge of a spiritual life is part of the person twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year. In describing the beliefs and practices of today, the traditional religion may also be understood. There is little basic change. The tradition of religious belief permeates every aspect of the people's life; it determines man’s relation with the natural world and with his fellow man. Its basic concern is continuity of a harmonious relationship with the world in which man lives.” p.30



# Spanish Colonization

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- Conquered with Overwhelming Military Power
- New Culture
- New Language
- New Religion
- New Legal System
- New Views of Land
- Racism



# Spanish Colonization

## Encomienda and Repartimiento Systems

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- Encomienda: Grants of land not being used by Indians to soldiers and settlers
- Repartimiento: The Encomienda grants included rights to employ Pueblo Indians living nearby
- Owner of a grant was not permitted to live on the grant - largely ignored
  - Perpetual conflict between Spaniards and the Indians
  - Perpetual conflict between settlers and missionaries
- Forced payments to church, civil leaders in Santa Fe, alcalde (village leaders)
  - Crops to be stored for Spanish consumption over the winter
  - Tithe must be paid, even if harvest was poor

# Spanish Colonization

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- Livestock brought by Spanish made water shortages more severe
- Pueblo Indians were forced to labor for both church and state
- Catholic Religion Forced on Pueblo Indians
- Outlawed Pueblo Indians Religious Practices
- Pueblo Indians required to fight against Spanish enemies
- Many Pueblo Indian leaders were killed as an example to maintain Spanish order

# Spanish Colonization

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“Thus did the Spaniards enslave and dominate the Pueblo people and enforce a feudal economic system and religious intolerance, fortified by a system of punishment for transgression. In matters regarding their religion, the Pueblos of the seventeenth century were not much different from those of today. To give up their religion would have been like giving up life itself.” p.62



# Pueblo Revolt - 1680

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- 80+ years of Spanish rule and persecution
- Preceded by a five-year drought
- Trigger event – 47 Pueblo people accused of sorcery
- Successfully forced Spanish out

# Return of the Spanish

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- 1692 - Spanish returned and were never again expelled
- 1696 - Submission from all the Pueblos completed
- Those who remained submitted to de Vargas and became allies of the Spanish
- Forced labor for repair and maintenance of churches still required
- Also required Pueblos to provide services and crops to Spanish governors
- Sacred ceremonial dances driven underground – away from village or at night and guarded. No further effort by Spaniards to stop the dances or destroy religious items.

# A New Alliance

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- 1700 - Pueblo population severely reduced
- Pueblos began making alliances with Spanish colonists to defend villages and farmlands against Indian raiders
- Land grants given by Spanish governors to Pueblos
- 1706 - Protector of the Pueblo Indians appointed at a meeting in Santa Fe.
- By 1729 – no further threat of Pueblo revolt
- Pueblos in 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries - not just in defensive action but also accompanied Spanish in campaigns against Indian raiders – became dependable and courageous warriors