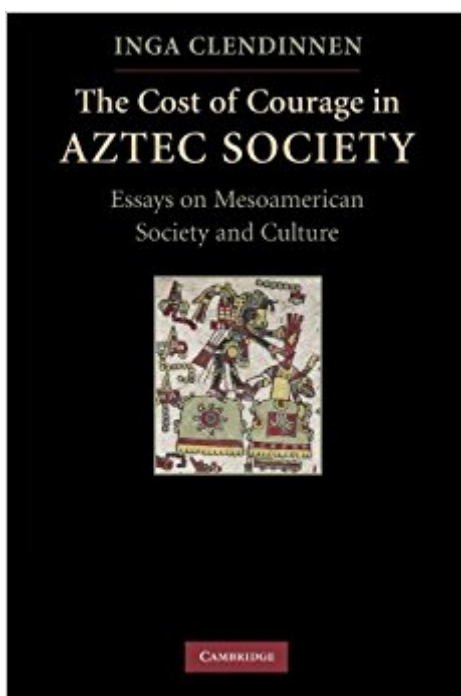


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# The Cost Of Courage In Aztec Society: Essays On Mesoamerican Society And Culture



## Synopsis

How can men be brought to look steadily on the face of battle? Tenochtitlan, the great city of the Aztecs, was the creation of war, and war was its dynamic. In the title work of this compelling collection of essays, Inga Clendinnen reconstructs the sequence of experiences through which young Aztec warriors were brought to embrace their duty to their people, to their city, and to the forces that moved the world and the heavens. Subsequent essays explore the survival of Yucatec Maya culture in the face of Spanish conquest and colonisation, the insidious corruption of an austere ideology translated into dangerously novel circumstances, and the multiple paths to the sacred constructed by 'defeated' populations in sixteenth-century Mexico. The collection ends with Clendinnen's transition to the colonial history of her own country: a close and loving reading of the 1841 expedition journal of George Augustus Robinson, appointed 'Protector of Aborigines' in the Port Philip District of Australia. Inga Clendinnen is Emeritus Scholar in History at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Her publications include *Aztecs* (Cambridge, 1991), *Reading the Holocaust* (Cambridge, 1999), and *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1579* (second edition, Cambridge, 2003). Her memoir, *Tiger's Eye*, was published in 2001; her Boyer Lectures, *True Stories*, in 1999; and a collection of her literary essays, *Agamemnon's Kiss*, in 2006. Her book on the meeting between the First Fleet and Aboriginal Australians, *Dancing with Strangers* (Cambridge, 2003), won several awards, including the Pacific Rim Kiriama Prize.

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## Customer Reviews

Tenochtitlan, the Aztec city, was the creation of war. The courage and stamina of its young fighting

men was indisputable. In the title work of this pathbreaking collection of essays, Inga Clendinnen discusses why warfare was so central to Aztec society and the ways in which the Aztecs understood their relationship to the forces governing the world and the heavens. Aztec rhetoric and Aztec ritual were unified in the endeavor to sustain a social order sufficiently in harmony with the natural order.

Inga Clendinnen is Emeritus Scholar in History at La Trobe University, Melbourne. Her publications include *Aztecs* (Cambridge, 1991), *Reading the Holocaust* (Cambridge, 1999), and *Ambivalent Conquests: Maya and Spaniard in Yucatan, 1517-1579* (second edition, Cambridge, 2003). Her memoir, *Tiger's Eye*, was published in 2001; her Boyer Lectures, *True Stories*, in 1999; and a collection of her literary essays, *Agamemnon's Kiss*, in 2006. Her book on the meeting between the First Fleet and Aboriginal Australians, *Dancing with Strangers* (Cambridge, 2003), won several awards, including the Pacific Rim Kiriama Prize.

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