

## ABSTRACT

### TLAXCALAN PERSEVERANCE IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

This study examines the people of Tlaxcala and their adjustment to the changing political and social climates that influenced the indigenous population of sixteenth-century central Mexico. It re-examines the available sources and argues that the Tlaxcalans successfully adapted to cultural transformations while managing to safeguard their way of life within a constantly shifting environment. Furthermore, this study proposes that the people of Tlaxcala responded to the Spanish occupation with intelligence and cooperation, traits they learned during their persistent fight for independence against the Mexica. Finally, this study finds that Tlaxcala's strategic military alliance with the Spanish and its successful adaptation to the hispanization process resulted in the blending of Spanish and Tlaxcalan culture, a unification that allowed Tlaxcalan customs and aspects of their autonomy to persevere.

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