

*** Note from JB: What is your exact strategy for defending your own group? What different ways will you make others seem more guilty?

Kennedy, Alexa, Nadir, Matt, Hezekiah, Marcus

Opening Statement: Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen of the jury. My name is (whoever is saying this) My group and I proudly represent King Charles the Fifth of the Holy Roman Empire, also known as King Charles the First of Spain. We are here today to prove our client innocent of all charges presented.

King Charles was apart of the greatest political dynasties in history; The Hapsburg Family. They have ruled over multiple parts of Europe for the last 700 years until the 1500's when it was at it's peak under King Charles. The empire stretched for thousands of miles, from the Netherlands to the Americas/'New World'. He acquired the vast empire from generations of arranged and strategic marriages, leading up to him. With all this power comes lots of enemies. King Charles was engaged in almost nonstop warfare among Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation and the Ottoman Empire. His biggest threat was the French, in which he had a long time dispute with. Because of these events, he was not able to oversee international affairs as well as he wanted to, including the Cortés and Aztec incident. Even if Charles had been able to oversee these international affairs, he could do little to control things thousands of miles away.

King Charles had set clear restrictions regarding the exploration of the New World. He established laws that stated that it was illegal to enslave the indigenous people of the Americas. This was a sign that he actually cared for the safety of the indigenous people. But with Cortés going out of his own jurisdiction and completely ignoring orders, there was little King Charles could do. He didn't even know the true extent of the situation to stop what was happening in Mexico. Cortés and Charles had exchanged letters during the conquest of the Aztec empire. Cortés had lied in several letters about the situation at hand. Without modern technology, King Charles couldn't have possibly known what was actually going down in Mexico, therefore he could not command Cortés in the way he would have.

The evidence my group will present to you will prove King Charles innocent.

Prosecution:

(Aztecs) Why did you treat us so nice if you knew something bad was going to happen?

Spaniards in the Aztecs eyes were seen as barbarians. Gold thirsty animals.

The Aztecs were passionately fond of war. Chapter 3 pg.217-218

You claim that we are nothing but bloody savages, your Culture practices human sacrifices of your own kind. (bloody) You can be just as bloody as we were. It just so happens that we have

guns. Our intentions were not to attack and shed blood. Cortes is a crazy man and he took this matter into his own hands. (Hernan Cortes)

Everybody wanted to leave Mexico but Cortes sunk the ships and killed some men.

(Cortes) We had no control over Cortes once he was at the island. He took the missions into his own hands. Our intentions were not to harm the Aztecs.

Cortes.....Why didn't you listen to us? You were more loyal to gold and riches than you own people? We are not to blame for Hernando's actions.

(The System) Why did you have us carry out this plan to change the Aztecs barbaric ways. If they didn't want to be christians, why are you making us force them to become christians?

(Cortes's men) If you really wanted to get away why didn't you just Kill Cortes, or hold him captive? There's 300 of you and one of him.

(Aztec) PROSECUTOR

Spain did the world a favor by slaughtering your people.

They were nothing but savages and once they spread to other shores of the the world they would have killed everyone in sight as history shows ()

QUESTIONS

1) Do you like children? If they liked children so much why would you cut out their hearts for human sacrifices. Does it make you guys feel good slaughtering mere children.

Could we really have let them go on with this savage act. no we could not.

What if this were your children? (RMC)

2) Is it true that you loosened control over your cities so that they may rebel against you, and you have more sacrifices

Aztecs had loose control over their satellite cities so that rebellions can occur and they get more sacrifices for their inhuman rituals. If they can do this to their own people, they would have no problem killing any other civilization. The aztecs had to be stopped and they were.

<http://www.theancientworld.info/2010/03/facts-of-aztecs/>

“After his coronation, it quickly became clear that Moctezuma had no interest (nor indeed, skill) in war-making. He expended much of his efforts into building schools”

http://www.dihughes.com/altepehua_final_atlas.pdf

To Montezuma: How much did you focus on war/ How much were you concerned about war? History shows that you had nearly no concern about war. Meaning you if you really wanted to

protect your people you would have focused more on war and less on schools for children who were to be sacrificed! Maybe spending less time on schools and more time building a proper army.

(The system)

This second embassy reached Socousco in 1523, where the Maya envoys met not with Cortes but with another Spaniard Pedro de Alvarado.” (pg. 7) *Invading Guatemala*

“Cortes sent Pedro de Alvarado down to Socousco to “learn the truth” about the reports of Kaqchikels harassing locals in Soconusco and Chipas ‘because they are our allies.’” (pg. 7) *Invading Guatemala*

Did I give you orders to send Alvarado

Question (Cortes) Did you plan to do when you found out what the Kaqchikels were up to?

Question (Cortes) What do you mean by “because they are our allies”?

Question (Cortes’ Men) After seeing what Cortes did to the Aztecs why would you follow Pedro de Alvarado to meet with the Kaqchikels.

Question (Aztecs) Did you plan on attacking Cortes men from the start.

Cortes knew that we did not want him to go.

Question (Cortes): Why did you defy your leader?

http://www.pbs.org/conquistadors/cortes/cortes_f00.html

Question (Aztecs) Why did you give gifts to Cortes even though he attacked your people?

Cortes is called disloyal by his own government. (pg. 76) *Bartolomé de las casas*

Question (Cortes): Do you believe the government trust you?

Question (Empire): Why was Cortes’ decisions so similar to Columbus’? Both were based on your ideas?

Questions (Cortes’ men): If a select few of you tried to escape and were executed. Why did all of you serve Cortes after seeing his savagery?

“On what authority have you waged such detestable wars against these people, who dwelt quietly and peacefully on their own land? (pg. 81) *Bartolomé De Las Casas*

Question (Cortes’ men): Why would you slaughter a group of people who only wanted peace. You could have teamed up with them to get rid of Cortes.

“Why do you keep them so oppressed and exhausted, without giving them enough to eat or curing them of the sickness they incur from the excessive labor you give them.”

Question (Cortes men): Why did you work the Indians after slaughtering them. Haven’t they suffered enough?

Question (Empire): Does your ideas promote excessive force against others when conquering.

Defense :

- “Later this whole historic event, including the Papal Charter, the number of troops and the complete Vatican and Spanish authority of Cortés was trivialized into a few hundred soldiers and Cortés acting out on his own orders.”
http://one-evil.org/content/people_16c_charles_i_spain.html
- “Cortés surprised Narvaez on the coast at Zempoala, attacking him at night. For Cortés, the outcome was better than he could have hoped. Thanks to Narvaez, defeated, his surviving troops reinforced Cortés who returned to Tenochtitlán in formidable numbers.”
http://www.pbs.org/conquistadors/cortes/cortes_f00.html
- “... opposing the growing forces of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, and engaging in almost nonstop warfare, primarily against the Turkish Ottoman empire and the French.” <http://www.pbs.org/kcet/when-worlds-collide/people/charles-v.html>
- “Although he assembled the most powerful empire in Europe, the king could do little to control Spanish colonists in the New World who revolted against these restrictions.”
<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/when-worlds-collide/people/charles-v.html>
- Ignorant of the situation: We weren’t aware of the murder and the slaughters. We were also not aware that Cortés killed his own men because HE wrote to us that due to wind and natural causes drowned the ships. “On account of very contrary winds and the loss of three ships” Page 3 of “Letters of Cortés.
- “Yet more had killed many of our family and friends and had expelled us from their country” We were given the image that Cortés was losing the fact and was getting the shorter end of the stick. (<http://library.thinkquest.org/J002678F/cortez.htm>) ← According to this link Cortés never was Expelled from Mexico.

Scribe notes: Cortés men: States that they were forced and of course blamed their superior. They used good facts. They blame Cortés and the king for all of their wrong doings.

System: Just gives an overview of what happened. As if it was a storyteller. The system promotes itself, yet discusses how power is necessary to keep control. It’s a bit contradicting. Plus they say wanting a larger empire is mandatory but the aztecs had no interest in expanding their empire past their own land.

Cortés men: Trying to pull blame to his accomplices. They are also using a pity party. They are driving blame to the king (us). They’re blaming their superiors for their own actions.

Aztecs: They say that they have suffered and were stripped of their identity and that their privacy was invaded. They said that they treated them properly and showered them in gifts. They are

playing the victim. They weren't aware of Cortés' previous doings

Closing statement: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, today I hope you see our client, King Charles completely innocent of his charges. We admit he wanted to claim Mexico as it's land, but we wanted to make allies, not enemies. Charles wanted to be successful in the System of Empire, which includes developing one's wealth and having a large amount of wealth. He wanted to share the idea of Christianity throughout the world. He thinks that Cortes was successful in getting land and riches, but he doesn't approve in the way he went about it.

As you can see the Aztecs are using a pity party and portraying themselves as victim. They tried to pretend they had no idea of Cortes and ended up contradicting themselves. They proved to be as savage as the Spanish were. Cortes claims that it all was on our client, when he was the one to go outside of his jurisdiction. He lied to the King in the letters. The King even sent an arrest party after him and he killed the arrest party. If Cortes' men really wanted to stop Cortes they could've. Also, they why would men covered in armor wielding guns be afraid of nearly naked men carrying sticks with pointy tips. This is a pity of an excuse to say that you were scared when you are clearly more advanced than them. Along with the expedition, the King was dealing with several wars, not being able to pay attention to the expedition as much as he wanted to. He didn't want to get rid of anymore men when he needed them to defend his reign.

All in all, King Charles did what he could to stop the killing. Yes he was the King, but he can only do so much with such little technology. Cortes went outside his direct orders. He tried to send parties and messengers to Cortez, only to have them killed. And he could only send so many parties until he ran out of men, which he needed for the wars he was dealing with in Europe. We trusted Cortez, but he let us down. Thank you.