



The Conquest of Tenochtitlan in Peter Martyr's *De Orbe Novo Decades*

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This talk explores Peter Martyr d'Anghiera's *De Orbe Novo Decades* (1530), focusing on his account of the fall of Tenochtitlan, a central event in the Spanish conquest of the Aztec Empire. Appointed as a court historian by Spanish monarchs Ferdinand, Isabella, and later Charles V, Martyr utilized sources like Christopher Columbus' reports and Hernán Cortés' letters to construct his narrative, despite never visiting the New World. Martyr's use of classical historiography, drawing analogies between contemporary and ancient historical events and protagonists, and his choice of Latin, which incorporates elements from Spanish and indigenous languages like Nahuatl, lend authority and universality to his work. The discussion will explore Martyr's Christian Providentialism, interpreting the fall of Tenochtitlan as part of a divine plan, and highlight themes of divine Providence, duty to God, and loyalty to the King found in both Martyr's narrative and Cortés' letters. Through an interdisciplinary approach incorporating historical, philological, and literary analyses, it will be assessed Martyr's impact on early modern historiography and indigenous narratives.

Wann: Mittwoch 12. Juni 2024 – 18:00

Wo: Innrain 52a, Ágnes-Heller-Haus, 1. Stock, Seminarraum 8