

SOAPS

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Hernan Cortes describes Tenochtitlan

"The city has many open squares in which markets are continuously held and the general business of buying and selling proceeds...There are daily more than sixty thousand folk buying and selling. Every kind of merchandise such as may be met with in every land is for sale there, whether of food and supplies, or ornaments of gold and silver, or lead, brass, copper, tin, precious stones, bones, shells, snails, and feathers; limestone for building is likewise sold there, stone both rough and polished, bricks burnt and unburnt, wood of all kinds in all stages of preparation...

Finally,...I will simply say that the manner of living among the people is very similar to that in Spain, and considering that this is a barbarous nation shut off from a knowledge of the true God or communication with enlightened nations, one may well marvel at the orderliness and good government which is everywhere maintained."