

New Mexico!

New

Mexico!

Marc Simmons

Third Revised Edition

University of New Mexico Press

ALBUQUERQUE



For Liz

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ISBN 0-8263-3509-8

Third revised edition

New Mexico! was first published in
1983 by Gibbs M. Smith Inc.,
Peregrine Smith Books,
Salt Lake City.
Original ISBN 0-87905-135-3

See Acknowledgments and
Photo and Illustration Credits
page 264.

Book design and typography
Kathleen Sparkes

This book was typeset in
Utopia 12/18

Display type is
Berthold Akzidenz Grotesk

Teachers:

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student guide is provided with
each set of this textbook. If you
do not have the Guide with your
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writing on school letterhead to
the publisher:

University of New Mexico Press
Customer Service
3721 Spirit Drive
Albuquerque, NM 87106-5631
505/277-4810 • 800-249-7737
Fax 505/277-3350

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TO THE STUDENT

We are about to go exploring. Our journey will take us across deserts, mountains, and rivers. It will lead us over new trails and roads. We will travel far back in time. In this book we explore New Mexico—yesterday and today.

History is our memory of the past. It is one of those things that helps us to understand the world around us. History shows that we are part of the long flow of human events. That is why we should care about what happened long ago.

New Mexico's history reads like an exciting adventure story. Indian people were the first to settle here thousands of years ago. They developed their own way of life, well-suited to the land.



A man without history is like a tree without roots.

—Marcus Garvey

African-American leader (1887–1940)

Next, the Spaniards arrived. They came with a different set of customs. And they created a European style of government.

Later, Americans (or Anglos) reached New Mexico from the East. They conquered the land and introduced their own traditions. Now, all three life-ways blended together.

These groups helped shape how New Mexicans live today. But other peoples contributed, too. Blacks, Asians, Middle Easterners, Jews and many people from different countries have settled here. Each added to our New Mexico culture.

In this book we will follow New Mexico's story through time—from the ancient Indian hunters to modern space scientists. When you finish the story, you will have a clearer picture why New Mexico is called the "Land of Enchantment."