VIEWS FROM THE APACHE FRONTIER

REPORT ON THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF NEW SPAIN

by

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Papas, or Lobos,[169] counting from its mouth. There are about 350 to 400 warriors. Their own hunting grounds extend from the left bank of the Chato to that of the Pados, which is a branch of the Papas, and throughout the territory lying between their villages and the Boyer.

37. The Poncás have a village on the little river below the Escarpado. Nevertheless, they are nomadic and fierce in nature. They kill without mercy anyone they encounter and attack furiously any time they feel they have the advantage. But when they do not, they attempt to make friends with those who–were they fewer in number–they would treat with the greatest cruelty. They have no more than eighty warriors, and maintain friendship only with those whom necessity forces them to hold as friends.

38. The seven villages of the Arricaras, or Ris,[170] are located along the Misoury about four hundred leagues from its mouth. There are about one thousand warriors, and although they inhabit an extensive territory, they have no horses because the arid and barren land does not produce the necessary pasturage.

39. In times past the Pados were the most populous nation in that area, but the wars that they have carried on with the others have decimated them, such that they have come to the extreme of consisting of no more than four small remnants whose structure saves them from the fury of the other nations, which hate them intensely. Despite the tenacious persecution they suffer, they are thought to have more than 350 warriors who are very skilled with bow and arrow and fleet of foot.[171]

40. The Laytanes, or nomadic Apaches,[172] live in the chain of mountains northeast of New Mexico and are held to be the best warriors along the Misoury. They dominate all neighboring nations, and although they are divided into several bands or small groups, they all live in unity and enduring friendship.

41. Los Suis,[173] who extend from the Río de Frayles to the source of the Misisipi, are like the Laytanes, that is, the dominant nation on the left shore of the Misoury. No other Suis than those who trade on the Río de Frayles get to San Luis. They are nomadic and live divided into different groups.

42. The Higados-duros or Pitacóricos[174] are settled along the upper Misoury above the Arricaras. They constitute seven important villages which make a large population, but there is no more information about them than the reports given by the Ris Indians and other nations. Because of this lack of information we will not attribute a number to the Laytanes, Suis, and Pitacóricos, as we have done for the other tribes we have discussed in this section.[175]

SECTION 4
Regarding the Nations to the West of the Upper Portion of the Province of New Mexico and Those of the Upper Coast of Sonora[176]

1. The province, or territory, of the Moguis Indians, or Moguinos,[177] is to the west of the capital of the province of New Mexico. This nation revolted toward the end of the seventeenth century, driving the Spanish and missionaries from their pueblos. No formal attempt has been made since then to subjugate them by force, nor is there any hope of achieving it by the gentle persuasion that has been employed on several occasions. The pueblos in which they are settled and established are seven, named Oraibe, Tanos, Moszasnavi, Guipaulavi, Xongopavi, Gualpi, and another small one without a name located between the latter and Tanos, but whose inhabitants are colonists subordinate to the pueblo of Gualpi.[178]

2. The Moguinos are the most industrious Indians of all those who inhabit and have been discovered in that part of America. They cultivate the land with great dedication; they harvest the same grains as among all the civilized peoples of our provinces; they take care never to lack vegetables; they have as many fruit trees as they can obtain, with a particular abundance of peach trees; and in all their fields they make use of the proper tools for cultivation. They possess and raise with meticulous care both large and small livestock. They have looms for the coarse weavings that they wear. They are very jealous of their freedom. They do no harm to the Spanish who pass through their pueblos, but they are very careful to see to it that they leave immediately.[179]

3. The aforementioned pueblos are built with great regularity: the streets are wide and the dwellings of one or two stories. For their construction they raise a wall about a *vara* and a half[180] above

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the ground floor, which is the level of the terrace and the pavement of the lower section, up to which they climb on a wooden ladder that they remove and put back as often as they need to climb up or down. In the terrace, onto which all the doors of the lower section open, there is a ladder to climb to the upper, whose configuration consists of a main room and two or three additional rooms. And in the same patio there is another ladder to climb to the rooftop or second story, if there is one.

4. Their government derives from the cacique of each pueblo, and for their defense they all make common cause. Their native people are of a lighter[181] color than that of the other Indian nations. Their dress differs little from that worn by the Spanish Americans of those remote provinces. Their saddles are the same, and their weapons are the lance and the bow and arrow.

5. The women dress in a full-length tunic, without sleeves, and a black, white, or colored shawl in the manner of a mantilla. They cinch the tunic with a sash, which is usually of several colors, and they do not wear beads or earrings. The old women wear their hair divided into two braids, and the young ones in a bun over each ear. They are fond of dances, which are a frequent source of diversion for them and in which the only music is a jar that they beat with two sticks and a kind of shepherds' flutes.[182] For these gatherings, which are their occasions for greatest display, there is no Mogui of either sex who does not wear a head dressing of attractive feathers.

Regarding the Seris, Tiburones, and Tepocas[183]

1. The Seri Indians live toward the coast of Sonora, in the famous Serro Prieto[184] and its vicinity. They formed a very populous group that wrought great havoc in that rich province. They are cruel and bloodthirsty, and with their poisoned arrows they took the lives of many thousand of inhabitants, also causing the failure of the expedition against them planned in Mexico. Today they are thought to be reduced to a small number, they have been attacked with success by our troops on many occasions, and they are restrained by the vigilance of the three presidios established for that purpose. None of their customs has the aspect of civility, and their beliefs and marriage exist under the aforesaid barbarous notions that have been mentioned with reference to the most savage nations.

2. The Tiburones and Tepocas[185] are a more numerous tribe, and of greater importance than the Seris. But their bloodthirsty character and customs are the same. They usually reside on the Ysla de Tiburón, which is joined to the coast of Sonora by a narrow underwater isthmus, which they cross by swimming at high tide; at low tide the water reaches only to their waists or below.[186] They go to the mainland, where they raid and steal, then return to the island. This is the reason that their brazenness usually goes unpunished. Twenty-three or twenty-four years ago His Majesty approved and ordered the execution of a plan to destroy them on their own island, but up to the present season it has not been attempted. For that purpose troops are being trained in Sonora. Their expedition is supported by a corvette from the department of San Blas and two or three smaller vessels, all to carry landing forces from the permanent companies of that port in the Mar del Sur. The array seems somewhat overblown, and the forces amount to such a great number that certainly not one-third of them would take part. And despite everything, we must fear that the Tiburones and Tepocas will not be finished as is believed.

Regarding the Pimas, Papagos, and Cocomaricopas[187]

1. On this side of the Gila, covering a territory that extends to what is considered the frontier of the province of Sonora, are settled the Pimas Gileños, or rather the Pimas Altos.[188] It is a nation of 2,500 souls who live in the towns of San Juan Capistrano, Sutaguison, Atison, Tubuscabors, and San Seferino de Napqub. They are affable and close knit. They dress in cotton and wool cloth which they make. They cultivate the land and harvest cotton, wheat, corn, and other cereals, for whose irrigation they have well-constructed *acequias* and each landowner encloses his field. They raise horses, sheep, and hens. Their weapons are the ones common to the Indians, and generally they are at war with the Apaches and with one nation or another of the Colorado.

2. The Papagos, who are a nation of four thousand souls, inhabit the farthest frontiers of Sonora, on the lands nearest the sea up to near the mouth of the Colorado River. They speak the same language as the Pimas, and dress in the same manner. They are divided into several *rancherías*. Their customs are the same, and in their

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