



### Spanish Romance in the Battle for Global Supremacy

Tudor and Stuart Black Legends

By Victoria Muñoz

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### How tales of love and arms mystified global conquest and rooted the idea of an idea of English empire as a civilized alternative to the cruelty of Spanish conquest

Did Spanish explorers really discover the sunken city of Atlantis or one of the lost tribes of Israel in Aztec México? Did classical writers foretell the discovery of America? Were faeries and Amazons hiding in Guiana, and where was the fabled golden city, El Dorado? Who was more powerful, Apollo or Diana, and which claimant nation, Spain or England, would win the game of empire? These were some of the questions English writers, historians, and polemicists asked through their engagement with Spanish romance. By exploring England's fanatical consumption of these tales of love and arms as reflected in the works of Edmund Spenser, William Shakespeare, John Dryden, Ben Jonson, and Peter Heylyn, this book shows how the idea of English empire took root in and through literature, and how these circumstances primed the success of Miguel de Cervantes's *Don Quixote of la Mancha* in England.

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### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Victoria Muñoz is a scholar of medieval and early modern literature and culture. Her specialties include Anglo-Spanish relations during the Renaissance, early modern English and Spanish literatures, early modern religious history and its intersection with European and colonial politics.

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