

Four hundred, seventy three years have passed since the island Capitol of the Aztecs surrendered to the combined forces of Hernan Cortes and some one hundred fifty thousand indian allies.

Only a year before, Cortez and his army of some 800 spaniards and eight thousand Totonac and Tlaxcalan indians had suffered

In spite of their well earned reputation for ferocity, courage and determination, ~~thereafter~~ there was only so much flesh and bone could endure in the face of almost <sup>constant</sup> daily <sup>battle</sup> combat, starvation, and most <sup>destructive</sup> ravaging of all, the ever increasing ravages of infectious disease against which <sup>they could make</sup> they were then was no defense. a defenseless population

When one reads the eye witness accounts of those seventy days of siege it becomes clear that <sup>even from the beginning</sup> the defenders never really had a chance. Of the two principle cities <sup>of the island</sup> Tenochtitlan and Tlatelolco, the former fell in the first three days of fighting beginning what was to become for the defenders a process of gradual retreat and ~~consolidation~~ <sup>fitful</sup> consolidation as the noose tightened around them. One of the ~~Sometimes between~~ <sup>assaults</sup>

~~Off~~ <sup>in allied hands</sup> With almost total control of access to the city in ~~allied hands~~ the and with its water supply cut off