##### **Document C- Glory**

**Balboa Claims the Pacific**

*Spanish explorer, planter, and governor Vasco Núñez de Balboa first traveled to the New World in 1500. He settled in Hispaniola as a planter and pig-farmer. Unsuccessful, he escaped those he borrowed money from by stowing away on a ship sent with supplies to a new settlement in South America. He helped start another new town, and he set out to conquer surrounding territory. He also made friends with several local chiefs. One of them told him about a sea on the other side of the mountains. He set out to find it with 190 Spaniards (among them Pizarro, who was later to conquer Peru) and a thousand of the local people. When Balboa ceremonially took possession of the Pacific, no Indians were present.*

*The excerpt below is from a History of the Indies by a Spaniard who followed in Balboa’s*

*footsteps, knew him personally, and took charge of his papers after his death.*

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| On Tuesday the twenty-fifth of September of the year 1513, at ten o’clock in the morning, Captain Vasco Núñez de Balboa, having gone ahead of his company, climbed a hill and from the top saw the Pacific Ocean… Then he fell upon his knees on the ground and gave great thanks to God… And he told all the people with him to kneel also, to give the same thanks to God, and to beg Him to allow them to see and discover the secrets and great riches of that sea and coast, for the greater glory and increase of the Christian faith, for the conversion of the Indians… and the fame and prosperity of the royal throne of Spain.  Four days later he marched with twenty-six of his men down to the shore of the Pacific Ocean… and emerged on to the beach… Then he held up a banner with a picture of the Blessed Virgin…  … and below, the royal symbol of Spain… With his drawn sword in his hand and his shield on his arm, he waded into the salt sea up to his knees, and paced back and forth, reciting, “Long live the most high and most mighty monarchs, in whose name, and for the royal crown of Spain, I now take possession, in fact and in law, of these pacific seas, lands, coasts, harbors, and islands, with all territories, kingdoms, and provinces which belong to them or may be acquired, in whatever manner, for whatever reason…”  “….And if any prince, Christian or non-Christian… should say they should have these lands or seas, I am ready and armed to fight him and defend them in the name of the Kings of Spain, who hold authority over these Indies, both islands and mainland, from Arctic to Antarctic… now and for all time, so long as the world shall endure, until the last day of judgment.” And so he performed the ceremony of taking possession.  Source: Qtd. in J. H. Parry, ed., *The European Reconnaissance: Selected Documents* (New York: Walker and Co., 1968), 233-5. |

1. (*Sourcing*) Who is the author of this document? Do you trust him? Why or why not?

2. (*Close Reading*) Underline two pieces of evidence from the document that make it sound like Balboa wanted glory. Mark the evidence #1 and #2.

3. (*Close Reading*) What would happen if anyone disagreed with Balboa’s actions?

4. (*Corroboration*) What other European motivations are present in this document besides “Glory?” Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.

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| **God** | *Text Evidence:* |
| **Gold** | *Text Evidence:* |