



The Ambivalence of New World Conquest

Jacques Du Hamel's *Acoubar ou la loyauté trahie* (1603)

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Abstract: This contribution offers a legal reflection on modalities of territorial conquest by way of theatrical fiction : *Acoubar ou la loyauté trahie* (1603) by Jacques Du Hamel. Opposing the strategy of military conquest adopted by the Persian Acoubar with that of the French knight Pistion's pacifying transfer of sovereignty, the ambiguity of the conclusion questions the legitimacy of any process of conquest. The play is a testing ground for legal possibilities, and their stakes and consequences.

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