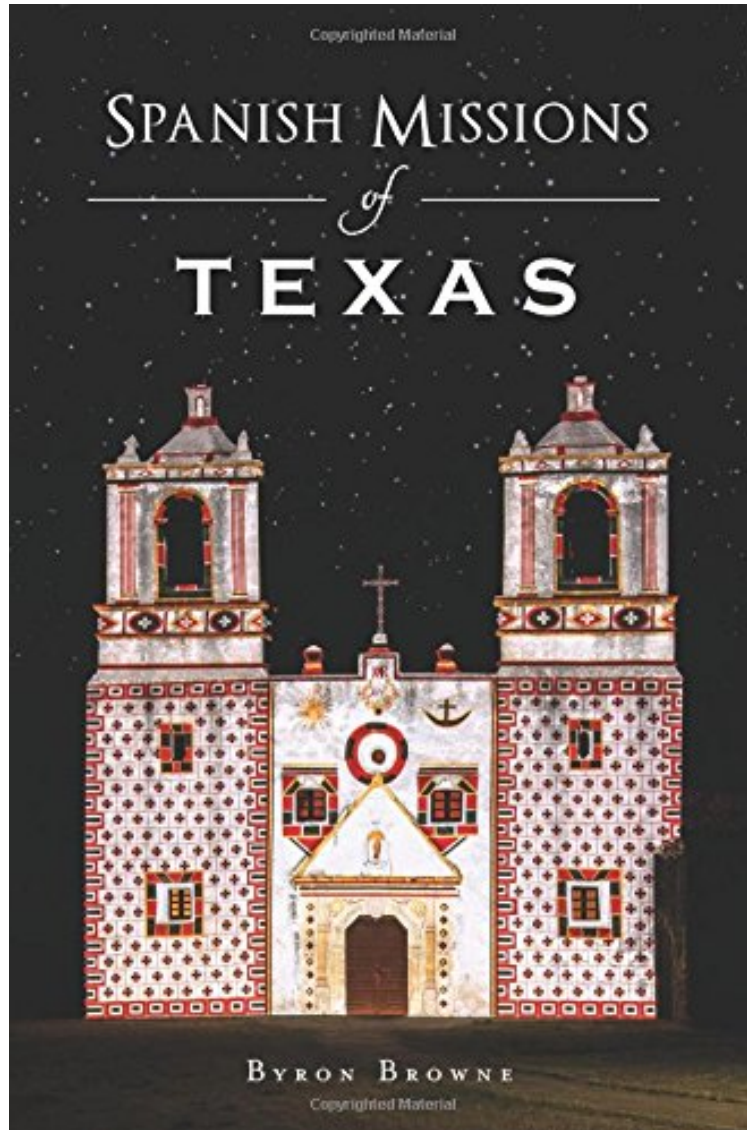


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After the conquest of Mexico by Hernn Cortes in the sixteenth century, conquistadors and explorers poured into the territory of Nueva Espaa. The Franciscans followed in their wake but carved a different path through a harsh and often

violent landscape. That heritage can still be found across Texas, behind weathered stone ruins and in the pews of ornate, immaculately maintained naves. From early structures in El Paso to later woodland sanctuaries in East Texas, these missions anchored communities and, in many cases, still serve them today. Author Byron Browne reconnoiters these iconic landmarks and their lasting legacy.

About the Author Byron Browne is a writer and teacher living in Austin, Texas, with his wife, Angie. He has written on subjects as various as the bullfights in Spain to the viticulture industry in West Texas.