

1647

Philip IV (1605–1665) ruled the Spanish empire at a time when Spain claimed much of modern North, Central, and South America. However, Spanish magistrates faced conflicts with the tribes of northern Mexico (Doc. 1.9). In this letter to Governor Luis Valdés, Philip sought to stabilize this region.

To my governor and captain-general of the province of Nueva Vizcaya: It has been learned in my royal Council of the Indies that that province adjoins the barbarous nations . . . who are now at war, though they are usually at peace; that while they were so at peace, there went among them to trade certain *alcaldes mayores* [magistrates] and religious instructors who carried off and sold their children to serve in the mines and elsewhere, disposing of them as slaves or giving them as presents, which amounts to the same thing. As a result they became disquieted, and the governor, Don Luis de Valdés, began to punish them immoderately and without regard for the public faith, for, after calling them to attend religious instruction, he seized and shot some of them. Thereupon they revolted, took up their arms and arrows, and made some raids; they broke into my treasury, and it has cost me over 50,000 pesos to pacify them, although they are not entirely quieted yet. It is very fitting to my service and to their peace to command strictly that the barbarous Indians shall not be made slaves nor sent as presents to anyone, nor made to serve anywhere against their will when they are at peace and are not taken in open war.

Charles W. Hackett, Adolph Francis Alphonse Bandelier, and Fanny Bandelier, eds., *Historical Documents Relating to New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya and Approaches Thereto, to 1773* (Washington, DC: Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1923), 161.

### PRACTICING Historical Thinking

**Identify:** What is the cause of the king's dissatisfaction with Governor Don Luis de Valdés? What is the king's proposed solution?

**Analyze:** What does Philip hope will result from this letter?

**Evaluate:** This was not the first time that Europeans questioned colonial treatment of Native Americans (Docs. 1.8 and 1.9). What are some similarities and some differences between Philip's appeal here and those from Chapter 1?

## DOCUMENT 2.8

### JOHN EASTON, *A Relation of the Indian War*

1675

John Easton (1624–1705) was governor of Rhode Island during King Philip's War (1675–1678), a series of attacks on New England settlements by the leader of the Wampanoag Confederacy, Metacomet (who was called King Philip by the English). Below, Easton describes how the Narragansett and Rhode Islanders were pulled into the war after forces from the Puritan colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut attacked the Narragansett people in Rhode Island on suspicion of harboring Wampanoag warriors.

... I having often informed the Indians that English men would not begin a war, otherwise it was brutish so to do. I am sorry so the Indians have case to think me deceitful for the English thus began the war with the Narogansets [Narragansetts], we having sent off our island [Rhode Island] many Indians and informed them if they kept by the water side and did not meddle that ... the English would do them no harm. ... The war [began] without proclamation, and some of our people did not know the English had begun mischief to [conflict with the] Indians. ... They [the forces from New England] sold the Indians that they had taken ... for slaves, ... and now the English army is out to seek after the Indians, but it is most likely that such most able to do mischief will escape, and women and children and impotent may be destroyed. ...

J. Franklin Jameson and Charles H. Lincoln, eds., *Original Narratives of Early American History: Narratives of the Indian Wars, 1675–1699* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1913), 15–16, transcribed into modern English by Jason Stacy.

#### PRACTICING Historical Thinking

**Identify:** According to Easton, what were the origins of this conflict? How far has it progressed?

**Analyze:** What was Easton's attitude toward the Narragansetts of Rhode Island?

**Evaluate:** What conflicting relations between natives and New Englanders does this document portray?