





The ast Conquistado Spanish explorer and community founder. In 1595, he explored the upper Rio Grande Valley for King Philip II of Spain. He and his men were given the task of creating missions, spreading Roman Catholicism to the area, and claiming what is now modern-day New Mexico for Spain. He became colonial governor of the region under Spanish control. He also led expeditions through Oklahoma, Colorado, and the Texas panhandle. Juan de Onate's contributions to the expansion/creation of communities: Through his expeditions, he named areas such as El Paso (the crossing of the Rio Grande). He also created "El Camino Real" which was crucial for communicating and trading between Mexico City and Santa Fe.



