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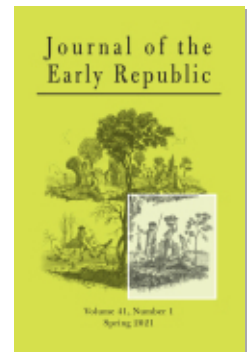
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*Spain and the American Revolution: New Approaches and Perspectives* ed. by Gabriel Paquette and Gonzalo M. Quintero Saravia (review)

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*Spain and the American Revolution: New Approaches and Perspectives.* Edited by Gabriel Paquette and Gonzalo M. Quintero Saravia. (London: Routledge, 2020. Pp. 260. Cloth, \$140.00; e-book, \$49.95.)

*Reviewed by Karen Racine*

If historians building the concept of vast early America now recognize the contingent, multi-ethnic and trans-imperial nature of the two centuries after Europeans' arrival in North America, this excellent edited collection suggests the existence of a vast early republic as well. Gabriel Paquette and Gonzalo M. Quintero Saravia brought together scholars working across traditional national historiographies to re-evaluate the earliest years of the relationship between the United States and Spain by incorporating the concept of entangled histories. This volume benefited from its collective origins as the authors have clearly read and interacted with each other's work. For example, some characters—notably John Jay, Thomas Pinckney, the Conde de Floridablanca, Diego de Gardoqui, José de Gálvez, and Bernardo de Gálvez—appear in several of the articles. The editors also made a laudable effort to include the work of early-career scholars alongside those of more established reputations. The book provides a set of high-quality, archivally based articles that accomplishes its editors' goals of broadening awareness of the extent of Spain's participation in American revolutionary events.

Several of the articles take a biographical approach with the intention of shrinking broader trends to a human scale. In each of these cases, the authors have taken care to use an array of primary sources in more than one language. María Bárbara Zepeda Cortés offers a detailed examination of José de Gálvez's strategic plan for Spain's participation in the American Revolution, which included buying time; lobbying; placing like-minded allies in key positions; creating a complex financial operation based in Havana, New Orleans, and Mexico; and appointing a Crown agent to oversee operations and information flows. Benjamin Lyon's article on John Jay's diplomatic efforts in Madrid to negotiate the Jay-Floridablanca Treaty reminds readers that history is made not through formal, dry, official channels alone; an individual actor's personality, outlook, and temperament also matter. Mary-Jo Kline's article on Sarah Livingston Jay, "a republican lady in Spain," makes a nice complement to Lyon's work, covering some of the same events from Jay's wife's perspective.

Other authors explore military aspects of the American Revolution, aiming to show readers that the revolutionaries received foreign support not just from France but from Spain as well. Larrie D. Ferreiro offers a detailed examination of the Bourbon armada, linking events around and across the Atlantic Ocean during the American Revolutionary years, from Toulon to Pensacola to Trafalgar. Manuel Lucena-Giraldo also emphasizes Spain's significant assistance in seagoing operations, arguing that the scientific orientation and strategic foresight of Spanish naval reformers led them to build a modern fighting fleet with deployment plans that maximized its impact. Ross Michael Nedervelt also discusses the aqueous theater, outlining the components of Spanish and American cooperation to exclude their shared rival Great Britain from key coastal zones. All three of these articles emphasize the importance of the United States' revolutionaries having access to Spanish ports in Europe and the Caribbean Zone for safe retreat, supplies, and spying operations.

A third thematic group of articles internationalizes the American Revolution by showing readers that related conflicts occurred in unexpected geographic locations. Eric Becerra offers a look at the complex inter-imperial struggle that took place in Spanish Louisiana, a place that turned into a crucible of New World liberalism as American republicans moved southward in search of land, religious freedom, access to markets, and local autonomy. John William Nelson offers a similarly insightful look at experience of the American Revolution along the Great Lakes, a zone in which the Spanish imperial strategists made a concerted effort to establish a significant permanent presence in the riverine interior by building key relationships with Indigenous communities. And venturing to borderlands even further afield, Emmanuelle Perez Tisserant discusses the American Revolution from the perspective of the Spanish Pacific, showing that the same belligerents jockeyed for power, place, and resources along the Western Coast from Mexico and California and across the Pacific waters to island outposts in the Philippines and Hawaiian Islands.

A final group of articles focuses on ideas, constitution-making, and shared reliance on the labor and profit generated by the traffic in enslaved Africans. Anthony McFarlane's essay leads the collection and is a masterful summary of the major events and people involved in the U.S. and Spanish American wars for independence. Emily Berquist Soule outlines

the operation of the transatlantic slave trade during the American Revolutionary war, convincingly arguing that it “stood unmistakably at the center” of nearly all political, diplomatic, economic, and moral calculations (116). Gregg French surveys the U.S.–Spanish bilateral relationship over a longer perspective, characterizing as a kinship bond not just in the national, metaphorical sense, but also rooted in real human friendships like that of George Washington and Juan de Miralles. Finally, Eduardo Posada-Carbó’s article concludes the collection with a richly textured article that sets out the shared interest in the theory and practice of constitution-writing that existed—and mutually influenced—America’s legislators and those of northern South America. Posada-Carbó insightfully reminds readers that in the late eighteenth century, U.S. state constitutions were important models in their own right, ones that circulated widely among the participants of the many constitutional congresses held in New Granada between 1811 and 1815.

The book has two particular strengths from both teaching and research perspectives. First, the editors have written a clear and effective introductory essay that links changing perspectives on Spain’s involvement in the American Revolution with broader events and ideologies across the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, like the Francoist official line and the impact of the Cold War and its subsequent demise. With this introduction, the editors have provided a useful model for students to understand the nature of historiographical writing. And as a second major contribution to the advancement of this subfield, the editors appended an extensive bibliography of primary and secondary sources that is nearly thirty pages long and includes approximately 600 titles in English, Spanish, and French. These two supporting elements bracket the twelve scholarly articles; the introduction sets the context for the work that follows and then the bibliography leads students and readers out into the library to follow their new interests. This valuable collection is clearly written, coherent, and surely will suggest new avenues for students, general readers, and advanced researchers to pursue.

KAREN RACINE is professor of Latin American history at the University of Guelph, Canada. She is the co-editor of the *Journal of James A. Brush: The Expedition and Military Operations of General Don Francisco Xavier Mina in Mexico, 1816–1817*, and currently researching Mina’s full biography.