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John L. Kessell, Pueblos, Spaniards, and the Kingdom of New Mexico

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encyclopedias that could have been replaced by more scholarly works. The use of many older works makes the reader wonder if the author thoroughly researched recent academic scholarship concerning Mendoza, Córdoba, and Santiago de Chile on topics closely related to the main theme of the book.

Finally, the book is provocative and original in its topic and can serve as a good model for scholars when analyzing the role of economic and geographic factors in the creation and dynamics of frontiers of the Spanish empire. This reader's disappointment is not with the model employed, but rather that an ambitious goal was not completely fulfilled.

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Pueblos, Spaniards, and the Kingdom of New Mexico. By John L. Kessell. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. xii + 225 pp. Illustrations, map, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.)

The title and notices of John Kessell's new book give the impression that this work might be a *magnum opus*, an overview, possibly, of the vast material covered by the six (seven, if you count the two volumes of *Blood on the Borders*) volumes he and his co-authors produced as part of the Vargas Project between 1989 and 2002 at the University of New Mexico. The title, *Pueblos, Spaniards, and the Kingdom of New Mexico*, indicates that this could indeed be a synthesis of the seventeenth century.

Although the results are not disappointing, they are surprising. Instead of the anticipated massive tome, Kessell has produced a relatively short, but nonetheless enthralling, treatment of the critical events of late sixteenth- and seventeenth-century New Mexico. He has taken a number of individuals, some of whom are not well known in the annals of New Mexico history, and, using threads from the Vargas publications and his own *Kiva, Cross, and Crown* (National Park Service, 1979, and later republished by the University of New Mexico Press in 1987), has interwoven what is known about their lives into the critical events of seventeenth-century New Mexico.

In the opening chapter, "Conflict and Co-existence," Kessell lays the groundwork for a period that brought Native American cultures into conflict and accommodation with the Spanish. He uses the remaining chapters to describe the vigorous co-existence—paraphrasing Kessell—by which these two cultures managed to survive. Kessell demonstrates how these peoples at times tried desperately to exterminate each other but both proved in the end to be remarkably resilient.

Kessell has a knack for imagining and putting thoughts and words into the minds and mouths of real historical characters. These make what may be otherwise dull descriptions of historical events come alive. His treatments

are not limited to the typical historical characters about which much is known, although these too are included. He tells of men such as Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà, author of the epic poem *Historia de La Nueva México*, but the reader is also introduced to a lesser-known Gaspar Pérez, a buffalo hunter whose life, and those of his sons, are interwoven into the events leading up to the defining moment of seventeenth-century New Mexico—the Pueblo Revolt of 1680.

It is the lives of such men (and at least one woman, the courageous Doña Eufemia), ranging from the mighty, such as Governor Luis de Rosas and the *encomendero* Francisco Gómez, to the seemingly ordinary Estevan Clemente, a native of the Salinas pueblos of southeast New Mexico, that breathe life into the pages of this volume. Estevan Clemente was educated by the Franciscan friars, became a successful merchant, and cooperated with the friars and government officials to denounce the kachinas. Yet he plotted revolt against the Spanish and in the end was hanged for his efforts. The reader also learns of the Keres native Bartolomé de Ojeda, who manned the ramparts of Zia resisting the Spanish reconquest in 1689 but later earned the respect of the Spanish elite and came to be called "don Bartolomé."

Kessell concludes the volume with a short "Postscript" that opens with the clandestine "cutting off" of the right foot of the Juan de Oñate monument at Alcalde, New Mexico, in 1998, just at the beginning of the often contentious four-hundredth anniversary of the Oñate settlement of New Mexico. The concluding chapter also reviews some of the events and acrimony that surrounded the decision to place a statue of Po'pay in the National Statuary Hall.

Pueblos, Spaniards, and the Kingdom of New Mexico is a short, but great, read. Kessell introduces a series of complex characters, recounts their stories, and explains where their lives intersected with other "equally intriguing characters" (p. xi) that filled the pages of history between the founding of the colony by Juan de Oñate and the *reconquista* of New Mexico by Diego de Vargas in 1692. These are individuals who help us understand the complex and fascinating history of seventeenth-century New Mexico.

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Hijos del Pueblo: Gender, Family, and Community in Rural Mexico, 1730-1850. By Deborah E. Kanter. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2008. xii + 151 pp. Maps, tables, appendix, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. \$55.00 cloth.)

Taking on the challenge of documenting cultural change among rural "Mexicans" during the late colonial, independence, and early national periods (1730-1850), Deborah E. Kanter has ably produced a history of the effects of the uncertainties of this era on Indian family and community. Focusing