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Book Reviews

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Book Review

Apache, Navaho, and Spaniard. By Jack D. Forbes. Norman, 1960. University of Oklahoma Press. Illustrations. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxvi, 303. \$5.95.

From the coming of Spanish colonists to New Mexico under Juan de Oñate at the close of the 16th century until the arrival of the Comanches in the early 18th century, the Apaches and Navahos provided the chief threat to Spanish occupation. In 1680 the Pueblo Indians rebelled and, aided by these wild nomads, drove the Spaniards from New Mexico. The survivors founded a new town, El Paso, at the ford of the Rio Grande. It required nearly twenty years for the Spaniards to restore their hegemony over the rebellious Pueblo tribes.

Apache, Navaho, and Spaniard covers this period, from the coming of the Spaniards to their return to the Rio Grande valley after the Pueblo Revolt. In his Introduction Professor Forbes sketches the background of the southern Athapascans, who had wandered far from the main body of their linguistic family in northwestern Canada and Alaska.

Missionary eorts to convert the Apaches and Navahos, although they occasionally appeared promising or fruitful, in the long run made no impression. One of the most significant results of the Spanish-Indian relationship in New Mexico was the diffusion of the Spanish horse among enemy tribes and in a wild state. The Spanish policy of capturing Apaches and Navahos for sale as slaves in Chihuahua intensified the conflict, and precluded the possibility of more than temporary periods of peace.

Most of the previously-published accounts of the Apaches and Navahos in the early Spanish period have been articles or have had merely a secondary interest in these Indians. Professor Forbes has told their story in detail, basing his study on archival documents as well as selected secondary sources.

University of Florida

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