

Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, ed., *Entangled Empires: The Anglo-Iberian Atlantic, 1500-1830*. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018). Print, 344 pp., US\$55, ISBN: 9780812249835.



Review

In 1494, Pope Alexander VI divided the world into two spheres of influence that he granted to the first two colonial powers: Portugal and Castile (later Spain). Within a century, this division was challenged by all who sought to exploit the new trade routes, lands, and commodities found in the Americas. These rivalries spread worldwide, but the Atlantic Ocean, which divided the Old World from the New, remained their primary battleground.

In *Entangled Empires*, Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra and his team of historians investigate the practicalities of operating within this dynamic and dangerous region, focusing specifically on the shifting relationship between British and Iberian kingdoms during the Early Modern era. The collection includes twelve chapters divided into four thematic parts, which Cañizares-Esguerra ties together to ensure continuity and avoid repetition between chapters. The result is a wonderfully-crafted and easy-to-read investigation into the age of colonialism in the Atlantic, featuring, among other things, an in-depth look into the development of the triangular trade system and numerous case studies revealing Anglo-Iberian interactions. All of the contributors are well-published historians and their chapters are supplemented with substantial notes which are collected at the end of the volume.

Part I of this volume is undoubtedly the most interesting in that it explores the reasons why English and Iberian histories have diverged so remarkably. Mark Sheaves begins this investigation by examining a number of Englishmen who lived

and worked in Spain during the sixteenth century. He notes the largely-ignored closeness between England and Spain during the reign of Mary I and how the Spanish Inquisition fundamentally altered this relationship after 1558. Michael Guasco then examines the origins of the West African slave trade and the ways in which the English undermined the Portuguese system by treating Africans with a higher level of respect, although this later fell away as the New World plantation system developed. The final chapter goes on a slight tangent to argue that the English usurped the role of the Portuguese in the Indian Ocean through the marriage of Charles II to Catherine of Bragança in 1662. Benjamin Breen convincingly links the introduction of tea into England at this time with the expansion of English trade in the region, at Portugal's expense.

The second part of this collection includes four chapters that look at direct interactions between the English and Iberian worlds. It begins with Christopher Heaney's article concerning the marriage of Mary I of England and Philip II of Spain and the utopian ideals it sparked in England. The works produced at this time ultimately became manifestos used to justify English colonisation efforts in the Americas. Meanwhile, Holly Snyder explores the role of Jews in the Anglo-Iberian world, arguing that they were able to transcend the boundaries of the various regions to build complex trade and communication networks, despite constant persecution and resentment from all parties. Similarly, Christopher Schmidt-Nowara examines three Irishmen who shifted between British and Spanish loyalties during the period of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars. He uses them to discuss the ongoing debate within the Anglo-Iberian world over the expansion of the African slave trade. This section ends with a case study by Cameron B. Strang, who documents the life of a British-born plantation owner living in Spanish Florida

and his struggles against the United States and Spanish revolutionaries to maintain the freedoms of manumitted and married Africans living in his community.

Part III is the shortest in the book and focuses on issues of territorial possession. Cānizares-Esguerre begins this section by comparing the justifications used by the Catholic Spanish and Calvinist English in colonising the New World, emphasising that both initially viewed the willing conversion of Native Americans to be a core justification for settlement. But this entangling of Church and State eventually became ideologically troubling to the English, who resorted to outright purchase of native lands. Following a similar vein, Bradley Dixon analyses the success of the Spanish mission system in the Carolinas and how English settlers failed to adequately copy this model, leading to the Yamasee War in 1715.

The final section in this book proves to be a somewhat varied assortment of chapters ostensibly focused on trade and war. April Lee Hatfield investigates the complex relationships formed between merchants and colonial governments in the Anglo-Iberian Caribbean, concluding that entangled trade relationships did not necessarily mean that everybody cooperated or treated each other as equal partners. Looking at this issue more closely, Ernesto Bassi explores the Caribbean black market and how the demand for British goods, especially textiles, led to illicit trade in Spanish ports throughout the New World. Kristie Flannery concludes this volume with another thematically-adjacent chapter, in this case focused on Anglo-Iberian entanglements in the Philippines during the Seven Years' War. Specifically, Flannery documents the fluid loyalties of those who fought over Manila – English, Irish, Spanish, Indian, Chinese, and Filipino – and how the aftermath of the war permanently changed Anglo-Iberian relations in the region.

Unlike so many edited collections, this volume remains on topic and consistent in style and complexity, and it provides a genuinely interesting reading

experience for both Anglo-Iberian experts and the lay public. The U.S. public school system teaches about the age of colonialism, the triangular trade system, the Manilla galleon network, and the evolution of the Anglo-American colonies, but it fails to examine the complex Anglo-Iberian interactions that permeated the entire period and defined life in the New World. This work reveals new intriguing perspectives regarding American history and should act as a starting point for similar explorations of English and Iberian relationships with the French and Dutch in the region. Indeed, any Early Modern historian – and all focused on Atlantic colonialism – would gain significant benefit from reading this book.

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