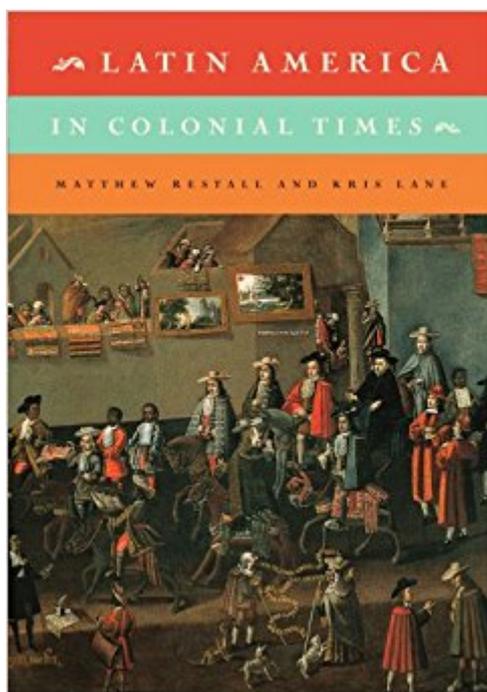


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Latin America In Colonial Times



Synopsis

Few milestones in human history are as dramatic and momentous as the meeting of three great civilizations on American soil in the sixteenth century. *Latin America in Colonial Times* presents that story in an engaging but scholarly new package, revealing how a new civilization - Latin America - emerged from that encounter. The authors give equal attention to the Spanish and Portuguese conquerors and settlers, to the African slaves they brought across the Atlantic, and to the indigenous peoples whose lands were invaded. From the dawn of empires in the fifteenth century, through the conquest age of the sixteenth, to the end of empire in the nineteenth, *Latin America in Colonial Times* combines broad brush strokes with the anecdotal details that bring the era to life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a textbook for undergraduates and, from what is said within the book, for undergraduates on introductory courses. As a textbook, it has some good points: it is laid out logically with plenty of maps and illustrations, and frequent "focus boxes" to summarise the salient points as an aid to revision. On the negative side, it presents a single, rather basic, narrative with little attempt to explore different interpretations, and its suggestions for further reading are limited, particularly in relation to the Hispanic kingdoms and Africa. The book's writing style is also quite dull: generally short simple sentences, and a rather clumsy presentation when it tries to deal with complexities. It is adequate for conveying information, but not for bringing the subject to life. Part One of the book is an introduction with a chapter each for pre-Colombian South America, the Iberian kingdoms and

western Africa. The first, on South America seems to be a reasonable introduction, although the late date and single route given for the peopling of North and South America seem questionable. The chapter on the Iberian kingdoms seems superficial, as to a lesser extent does that on western Africa. These two chapters are not well constructed and, as they are at the start of the book, they give a poor impression of the credibility of the whole. Part Two of the book deals with the European conquest and Part Four with Late Colonial times and Independence respectively; Part Three deals with Colonial Society between these times, the "Colonial Middle". These contain a fairly full introductory survey of Colonial Latin America. However, they do betray the interests of the two writers.

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