Bibliography of Sources

Colonial Mexico and Spanish America

1. Ida Altman and James Lockhart, eds., Provinces of Early Mexico: Variants of Spanish American Regional Evolution. Los Angeles, 1976. Invaluable collection of research essays by students and colleagues of James Lockhart; provide greater depth to our understanding of life at the local and regional level in colonial Mexico.

2. Richard L. Kagan, Urban Images of the Hispanic World, 1493-1793. New Haven, 2000. Anyone who has enjoyed the unique urban wonders of the Mediterranean world, from Tuscany in northern Italy to the coastal urban outposts of Venice in the Adriatic Sea and the Roman ruins surrounding the modern coastal cities of North Africa will appreciate this treatment of Spain’s “Empire of towns” in America. With obvious attention to the living urban monuments that are Lima, Mexico City, Cuzco and Potosi, the author details both the Mediterranean heritage of the Spanish system in America and the important native contributions to these communities.


7. __________, The New World of Martin Cortes. Cambridge, Mass., 2004. A continuation of the author’s quest for information on Malinche and her only child, a son by the conquistador Hernan Cortes, that moves from Mexico to Spain and back; an outstanding example of the difficulties faced by anyone researching events and people from the Spanish colonial period in the Americas.


The *magnum opus* by Lockhart that completely rewrites our understanding of post-Conquest Mexico and the role of the native peoples of central Mexico. He was able to accomplish this because he alone of all colonial scholars was willing to learn the language of the natives of central Mexico, Nahuatl, still spoken in part of the region today. Imagine someone seeking to understand classical Greece only through Latin histories of the Greeks, without access to the original Greek! This was how the history of post-Conquest Mexico was written before the efforts of Lockhart and his students at UCLA to learn Nahuatl and investigate the original sources in that language.


A collections of essays spanning 30 years of the academic career of James Lockhart, from topics such as the social history of Spanish America to the evolution of the hacienda from the encomienda as the basis of control of the land in Spanish America; each study by this shy, amazing man, has broken the mold, amazed his colleagues, and unfortunately in many cases had little effect upon the biases and distortions that still prevail in most textbooks about colonial Spanish America, the exception being the survey authored by Lockhart himself.


A rich visual representation of the efforts of Spanish colonial officials and native Mexican scholars to create an essentially 16th century equivalent to the Domesday Book created for William the Conqueror on his new holdings in England. This work commissioned by Phillip II of Spain provides us a detailed description of daily life in the Emperor’s new lands, and in particular how Spanish imperial traditions blended with indigenous institutions to create the hybrid realm of New Spain/Mexico.


Apart from the works of James Lockhart and David Weber, the most important works written over the past 50 years on the period of colonial Spanish America, and in particular the period of the Conquest, have been written by Professor Restall. This man has exploded so many distortions that have been carved into stone by both Anglophone and Hispanic scholars seeking to misrepresent this period, including one featured prominently every year in my own lectures on this period, the myth of Quetzalcoatl.


Excellent local history detailing the closing of the overland route from northern Mexico to Alta California by uprising of Yuman Indians against Spanish missionaries and soldiers, and the consequences for Spanish settlement in Alta California.


Definitive study of the Spanish Borderlands frontier of North America, replacing earlier works by Bolton and Bannon; result of exhaustive research in the Americas and Spain by former professor of history at San Diego State now resident at Southern Methodist University.
The United States and Mexico Since 1800

   Classic study of the influence of the state of Sonora, with its important economic and social ties to the southwestern U.S., on the final outcome of the Mexican Revolution.

   A brief but well informed review of recent – 1990s - contradictory US policies towards border trade and crossings during the Bush I and Clinton administrations. Contrasts the trade policies of NAFTA with the police strategies against migrants and drugs. Also offers useful comparisons with similar policy contradictions in Europe, especially Spain and Germany.

   The best primer on Mexican politics by a social scientist who takes the time to inquire among participants in the system at all levels, from party bosses to community activists.

   Invigorating collection of essays on Border culture, from the daily outbursts of violence in border towns to the perpetual hopes of migrants and the continuing process of mestizaje (miscegenation) in all layers of life.

   The Socialist critic and essayist on life and change in southern California argues that the rapidly growing urban Latino populations of California will transform politics and the left in the United States. The rise of Antonio Villaraigosa as Speaker of the California Assembly and now Mayor of Los Angeles certainly adds some weight to Davis's commentary.

   Celebration by Mexico’s premier essayist and novelist of the changing political fortunes of Mexico during the 1990s, eventually leading to the election of Vicente Fox of the PAN as President in 2000.

   Rant by a renowned Classical historian at Cal State Fresno on his personal view of the disastrous effects of unregulated Mexican migration upon California, particularly the Central Valley.

   Encyclopedic study by specialist in the Diaz years of Mexican history, with fascinating details on the numerous activities of American entrepreneurs in the economic development of Mexico following the US and Mexican civil wars of the 1860s.

   Border scholar at San Diego State University and UC San Diego details the cross-fertilization of art, architecture, and urban design in the Californias, and how both cultural traditions in the region, Anglo and Mexican, can profit from working together
in the process of economic and social change that will occur as a consequence of NAFTA.

Award-winning study of the intervention of the European Great Powers and the U.S. in seeking to shape the outcome of the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920; thorough study of diplomatic archives in Germany, Britain, France, Spain, and the United States.

Despite the title, this brief overview of the historical dynamics of the northern Mexico/southwestern U.S. border region starts from the times of the Jesuit missionaries and offers a useful overview of contacts in the region before 1920, before concentrating on a historical review of major events from the Great Depression to NAFTA.

Published at the time of and in response to the passage of NAFTA, this collection of academic essays details the increasing interaction and, yes, interdependence of these two “states/nations”.

Important essay on Mexico by a highly influential foreign correspondent for *The New York Times* and *The Economist*; a best-seller in the United States during the late 1980s.

A combination of personal anecdotes on border culture and results of research on contemporary change along the U.S.-Mexican border, particularly on the early consequences of NAFTA, by a senior historian at UC San Diego.

These first two publications by Urrea, native of Tijuana and graduate of UC San Diego, document everyday life along the U.S.-Mexican border; many of the essays in these two titles first appeared in the weekly San Diego Reader.

More investigative reporting from the U.S.-Mexican border.

Documents the ordeal of illegals crossing the Sonoran desert into the U.S.

Documents the experience of an early Anglo immigrant to California *sin papeles* (without papers/documents), and his run-in with the Mexican Californios, including los Arguello/the Arguellos.