Salvation and Globalization in the Early Jesuit Missions

This is the first truly global study of the Society of Jesus’s early missions. Up to now historians have treated the early-modern Catholic missionary project as a disjointed collection of regional missions rather than a single world-encompassing example of religious globalization. Luke Clossey shows how the vast distances separating missions led to logistical problems of transportation and communication incompatible with traditional views of the Society as a tightly centralized military machine. In fact, connections unmediated by Rome sprung up between the missions throughout the seventeenth century. He follows trails of personnel, money, relics, and information between missions in seventeenth-century China, Germany, and Mexico and explores how Jesuits understood space and time and visualized universal mission and salvation. This pioneering study demonstrates that a global perspective is essential to understanding the Jesuits and will be required reading for historians of Catholicism and the early-modern world.

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for

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while doing this research,
for distracting me from this research,
and for reminding me that
you don’t have to be a Jesuit to care about distant souls.
Contents

List of Tables and Charts          page ix
Acknowledgments                        xi

1  Introduction                        1
2  Organizing the Society of Jesus     20
3  Decentralizing the Society of Jesus  45
4  Imagining Global Mission           68
5  Space, Time, and Truth in the Jesuit Psychology  90
6  The Missionary Motivation         114
7  The Jesuit Missionary Network      136
8  The Jesuit Financial Network       162
9  The Jesuit Information Network     193
10 The Jesuit Sacred Economy         216
11 An Edifying End: Global Salvific Catholicism  238

Appendix A. Abbreviations for Document Sources  259
Appendix B. Chronological Tables (1540–1722)   262
Appendix C. Principal Prosographical Information  270
Appendix D. Monetary Systems            273
Works Cited                            275
Index                                    311
List of Tables and Charts

**Tables**

1. Languages in Jesuit Probation House, Vienna, 1642  
   *page 36*  
2. Languages in Jesuit College of Prague, 1675  
3. Languages in Jesuit College of Prague, 1678  
4. Ferdinand von Fürstenberg’s mission stations

**Charts**

1. Typology of Jesuit Attitudes towards Salvation  
2. *Indipetae* from Central Europe preserved in ARSI

ix
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