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0521835550 - Changing National Identities at the Frontier: Texas and New Mexico, 1800-1850

Andres Resendez

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Changing National Identities at the Frontier

Texas and New Mexico, 1800–1850

This book explores how the diverse and fiercely independent peoples of Texas and New Mexico came to think of themselves as members of one particular national community or another in the years leading up to the Mexican–American War. Hispanics, Native Americans, and Anglo Americans made agonizing and crucial identity decisions against the backdrop of two structural transformations taking place in the region during the first half of the nineteenth century and often pulling in opposite directions. On the one hand, the Mexican government sought to bring its frontier inhabitants into the national fold by relying on administrative and patronage linkages; but on the other, Mexico’s northern frontier gravitated toward the expanding American economy.

Andrés Reséndez is an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of California, Davis. He is from Mexico City, where he obtained his undergraduate degree in International Relations from El Colegio de México. Reséndez did his graduate work at the University of Chicago and later worked in Mexico as a professional consultant to historically based television programs. Having obtained his Ph.D. in 1997, he returned to the United States as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Yale University. The author has traveled extensively throughout Mexico and the American Southwest, and he has written articles about Mexico’s northern frontier and the Mexican–American War for leading journals in both Mexico and the United States. He is the editor and translator of *A Texas Patriot on Trial in Mexico: José Antonio Navarro and the Texan Santa Fe Expedition*, forthcoming in the Library of Texas Series. He is also a member of the American Historical Association (AHA), the Organization of American Historians (OAH), and the Latin American Studies Association (LASA).

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ANDRÉS RESÉNDEZ

University of California, Davis



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Dedicated to my parents, to Jaana, and to Vera and Samuel

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