

## Three Consuls

For two generations after independence, Americans viewed the Mediterranean as the new commercial frontier. From common sailors to wealthy merchants, hundreds of Americans flocked to live and work there. Documenting the eventful lives of three American consuls and their families at the ports of Tangier, Livorno, and Alicante, Lawrence A. Peskin portrays the rise and fall of America's Mediterranean community from 1776 to 1840. We learn how three ordinary merchants became American consuls; how they created flourishing communities; built social and business networks; and interacted with Jews, Muslims, and Catholics. When the bubble burst during the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812, American communities across the Mediterranean rapidly declined, resulting in the demise of the consuls' fortunes and health. A unique look into early American diplomacy, *Three Consuls* provides a much needed overview of early consular service that highlights the importance of US activities in the Mediterranean region.

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## Three Consuls

*Capitalism, Empire, and the Rise and Fall of  
America's Mediterranean Community, 1776–1840*

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MAP 0.1 The Mediterranean, from William Jowett, *Christian Researches in the Mediterranean, from MDCCCXV to MDCCCXXI* (London: R. Watts, 1824). (Map redrawn by David McCutcheon FBCart.S, [www.dvdmaps.co.uk](http://www.dvdmaps.co.uk))