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978-1-107-06312-9 - Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico: From Chinos to Indians

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## Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico: From Chinos to Indians

During the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, countless slaves from culturally diverse communities in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia journeyed to Mexico on the ships of the Manila Galleon. Upon arrival in Mexico, they were grouped together and categorized as *chinos*. Their experience illustrates the interconnectedness of Spain's colonies and the reach of the crown, which brought people together from Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe in a historically unprecedented way. In time, *chinos* in Mexico came to be treated under the law as Indians, becoming indigenous vassals of the Spanish crown after 1672. The implications of this legal change were enormous: as Indians, rather than *chinos*, they could no longer be held as slaves. Tatiana Seijas tracks *chinos*' complex journey from the slave market in Manila to the streets of Mexico City, and from bondage to liberty. In doing so, she challenges commonly held assumptions about the uniformity of the slave experience in the Americas.

Tatiana Seijas is Assistant Professor of History at Miami University.

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# Asian Slaves in Colonial Mexico

*From Chinos to Indians*

TATIANA SEIJAS

*Miami University*



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*To my mother Dr. Pilar Alicia Parra Cabrera*

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