Apache Adaptation to Hispanic Rule

As a definitive study of the poorly understood *Apaches de paz*, this book explains how war-weary, mutually suspicious Apaches and Spaniards negotiated an ambivalent compromise after 1786 that produced over four decades of uneasy peace across the Southwest. In response to drought and military pressure, thousands of Apaches settled near Spanish presidios in a system of reservation-like *establecimientos*, or settlements, stretching from Laredo to Tucson. Far more significant than previously assumed, the establecimientos constituted the earliest and most extensive set of military-run reservations in the Americas and served as an important precedent for Indian reservations in the United States. As a case study of indigenous adaptation to imperial power on colonial frontiers and borderlands, this book reveals the importance of Apache–Hispanic diplomacy in reducing cross-cultural violence and the limits of indigenous acculturation and assimilation into empires and states.

Matthew Babcock earned his Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University, his M.A. from the University of New Mexico, and his B.A. from Dartmouth College. He is currently Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Texas at Dallas and is a recipient of a prestigious Dornsife Long-Term Research Fellowship at the Huntington Library. He has written numerous journal articles and book chapters, which have been published in Spain, Canada (Quebec), and the United States. He is a member of the American Historical Association, American Society for Ethnohistory, Western History Association, and Texas and East Texas State Historical Associations.
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Apache Adaptation to Hispanic Rule

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Contents

List of Figures page vii
List of Maps ix
List of Tables xi
Acknowledgments xiii
A Note on Terminology xvii

Introduction 1
1 Peace and War 19
2 Precedents 61
3 Ambivalent Compromise 105
4 Acculturation and Adaptation 141
5 Collapse and Independence 172
6 Resilience and Survival 213
Epilogue 250

Appendix 261
Bibliography 265
Index 287
# Figures

1.1 A Ndé painted deerskin by Naiche, ca. 1909.  
1.2 Detail of map depicting the Ndé homeland as ‘Terra Apachorum,’ or ‘Apache Country,’ ca. 1705.  
2.1 Detail of Nicolas de Lafora’s 1771 Map depicting the outcome of the Marqués de Rubí’s 1768 policy recommendations, with eastern Apache groups confined to the margins of the southern plains and Comanches north of the Red River.  
4.1 Detail of Alexander von Humboldt’s 1804 Map of the Kingdom of New Spain, showing Apache groups west of the Rio Grande.  
4.2 Ndé playing cards for the game Monte.
Maps

I.1 Ndé resettlement, 1786–1798  page 3
I.2 The Apache–Spanish frontier, ca. 1800  4
1.1 The Ndé and their neighbors, ca. 1630  20
1.2 The expanding Ndé homeland, 1670–1718  34
2.1 Eastern Apache movements and resettlement in missions, 1715–1766  67
2.2 Ndé movements, peace pacts, and resettlement near Presidios, 1732–1783  78
3.1 Spanish–Indian military campaigns into the Apachería, 1786–1798  109
3.2 The Ndé homeland and raiding and trading routes, 1766–1846  124
5.1 The Apache–Mexican frontier, 1821–1832  198
6.1 The Apache–Mexican frontier and revived establecimientos, 1842–1845  214
Tables

3.1 Summary of Apache and Spanish Hostilities in the Interior Provinces of New Spain, 1778–95 (Selected Years) page i30

5.1 Janos Presidio Average Garrison Strength, 1791–1834 (Selected Years) 188

5.2 Annual Expenditures for the Apaches de paz at Janos Presidio, 1791–1843 (Selected Years) 190
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claims of various anthropologists, I had assumed that Ndé or Apache collective historical memory only went as far back as about 1850. I am extremely grateful to Manny for contacting me and his help in connecting me with Ndé people from San Antonio to the Pacific Coast. Thanks as well to Lorraine Garcia and Michael Paul Hill, whose contributions are acknowledged in the footnotes herein.

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xvi

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A Note on Terminology

This book is written from multiple perspectives and reflects American Indian, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo American viewpoints. Therefore the terminology I utilize derives from each of those cultures. Since members of the Chihene Nde Nation of New Mexico contacted me and expressed interest in my work, I have employed their preferred Athapaskan terms for their people instead of Spanish or American terms. That means that I use “Ndé” for “Apache” and “Chihene” for Gileños, Mimbreno, Warm Springs, and Copper Mine Apaches. At their request, I have also used “Southern Apaches” in place of the cover term “Chiricahua.” Although employing the term “Southern Apaches” for people whose homeland lies between Ndé groups commonly called Eastern and Western Apaches is potentially confusing from a geographical standpoint, U.S. Indian Agent Michael Steck and anthropologist William B. Griffen also followed this practice. In an effort to minimize the usage of all three of those larger geographical groupings, I have tried to identify Ndé people, especially Southern Apaches, by their specific bands whenever possible. Since headmen tended to marry women in multiple bands and followed a pattern of matrilocal residence, that decision has proven enormously challenging.

Rooted in Spanish archival research, this book also reflects a Hispanic perspective. Since the Athapaskan-speaking people I write about were in close contact with Spaniards and Mexicans who called them “Apaches” and “Apaches de paz,” I also employ those terms, when writing from a Hispanic perspective, for broader clarity (such as in the
A Note on Terminology

title), variety of terminology, or when it is impossible to determine the precise band affiliations of individuals or groups. I encourage all readers to consult the Appendix for further clarification of the terminology used for the Athapaskan-speaking groups described in this book.