

## Property and Dispossession

Allan Greer examines the processes by which forms of land tenure emerged and natives were dispossessed from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries in New France (Canada), New Spain (Mexico) and New England. By focusing on land, territory and property, he deploys the concept of “property formation” to consider the ways in which Europeans and their Euro-American descendants remade New World space as they laid claim to the continent’s resources, extended the reach of empire and established states and jurisdictions for themselves. Challenging long-held, binary assumptions of property as a single entity, which various groups did or did not possess, Greer highlights the diversity of indigenous and Euro-American property systems in the early modern period. The book’s geographic scope, comparative dimension and placement of indigenous people on an equal plane with Europeans make it unlike any previous study of early colonization and contact in the Americas.

ALLAN GREER holds the Canada Research Chair in Colonial North America at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He has published seven books, including *Mohawk Saint: Catherine Tekakwitha and the Jesuits* (2005) and *La Nouvelle-France et le monde* (2009). He has been the recipient of fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the Killam Foundation. Greer is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and a former resident fellow at the Institut d’études avancées, Paris.

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# Property and Dispossession

*Natives, Empires and Land in Early  
Modern North America*

ALLAN GREER

*McGill University*



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*to Kate*

## Contents

<i>List of Maps</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>List of Illustrations</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xv
I Introduction: Property and Colonization	I
PART I THREE ZONES OF COLONIZATION	
2 Indigenous Forms of Property	27
3 Early Contacts	65
4 New Spain	97
5 New France	145
6 New England	191
PART II ASPECTS OF PROPERTY FORMATION	
7 The Colonial Commons	241
8 Spaces of Property	271
9 A Survey of Surveying	311
10 Empires and Colonies	355
PART III CONCLUSION AND EPILOGUE	
11 Property and Dispossession in an Age of Revolution	389
<i>Index</i>	437

## Maps

1.1 Empires, colonies and indigenous nations, late seventeenth century	<i>page</i> xviii
4.1 New Spain/Mexico	96
5.1 Canada (within New France)	144
6.1 Southern New England, ca. 1675	190

## Illustrations

2.1	Nahua <i>macehuales</i> sowing, tilling and harvesting maize	page 32
2.2	Wampanoag cornfields and dwellings around Plymouth Harbor, 1605	39
4.1	Indians performing agricultural labor service for a Spanish encomendero	100
4.2	<i>Códice Tributos de Coyoacan</i> : a record of the tribute owed by residents of the pueblo of Coyoacan, near Mexico City, in the mid-sixteenth century	105
4.3	<i>Códice Tributos de Coyoacan</i> , detail	106
4.4	Pictographic record of the land holdings of Juliana Flanco of Huexocolco	115
5.1	A late seventeenth-century map of New France, by J.-B. Franquelin, king's cartographer at Quebec	150
6.1	William Hartwell's land-holdings in the town of Concord, Massachusetts	215
8.1	A surveyor's theodolite, English, from the late sixteenth century	277
8.2	Gunter's chain, ca. 1700	278
8.3	Map of Culhuacán, from the <i>Relaciones Geográficas</i> , 1580	286
8.4	Samuel de Champlain's 1632 map of New France	288
8.5	John Smith's map of New England, 1616	289
9.1	A sixteenth-century surveyor, with compass and chain	318
9.2	Two entries from a cadastral register of the pueblo of Tepetlaoztoc, ca. 1540	324
9.3	Sketch of a <i>sitio de ganado</i> (exclusive pasture) depicted as a circle	330



9.4	Notionally circular <i>sitios de ganado</i> (exclusive pasture)	331
9.5	Jean Bourdon, “Carte depuis Kébec jusqu’au Cap de Tourmente,” 1641	337
9.6	Surveyor’s plat from the seigneurie of La Prairie, October 1719	343
9.7	Map of the seigneuries of New France, 1709	345

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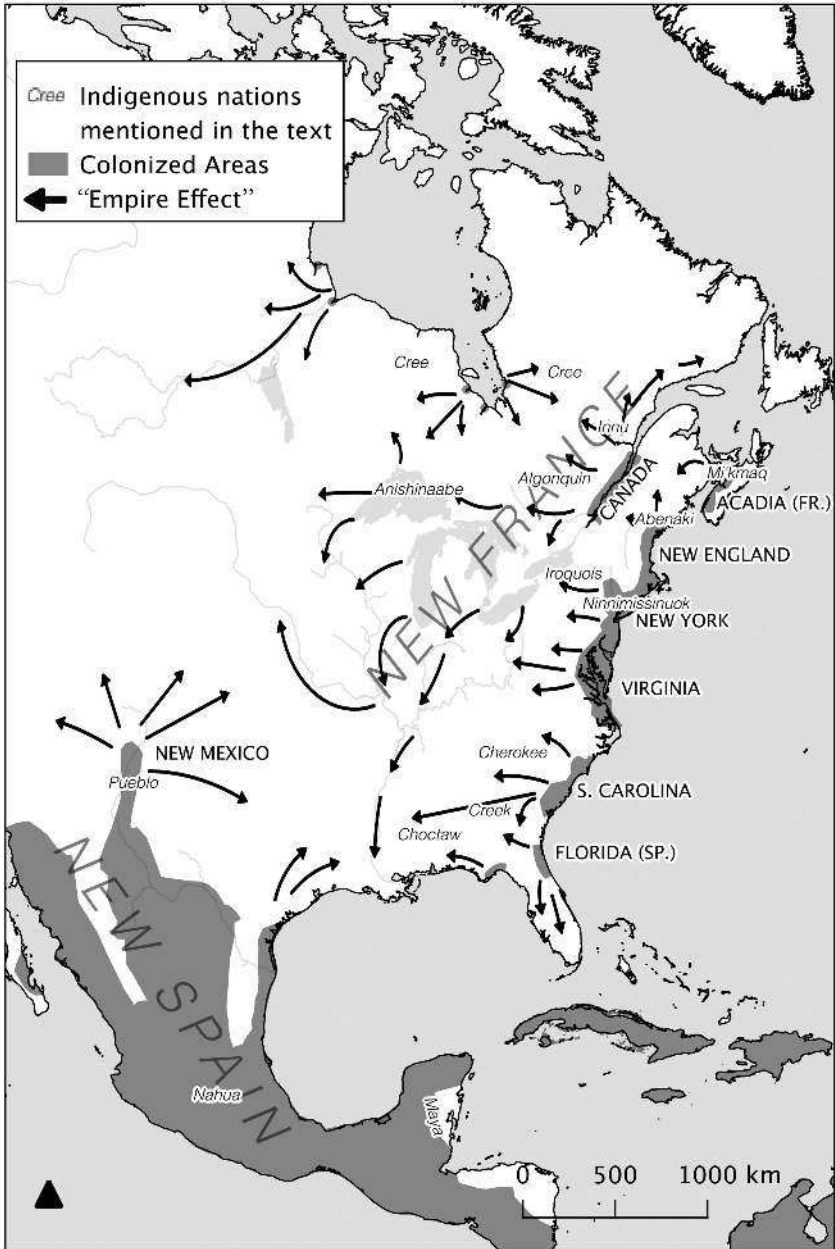
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xvii

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MAP I.1 Empires, colonies and indigenous nations, late seventeenth century