

America's Middlemen

Throughout American political history, the US government formed alliances with militias, tribes, and rebels. Sometimes, these alliances have been successful, dramatically reshaping the battlefield. But these alliances have also risked creating larger wars in regions where the United States had no real interest. Understanding these alliances – and much of American political history – requires moving beyond our normal focus on traditional diplomats or social elites. The architects of these alliances were traders, missionaries, former slaves, and low-level government employees. These intermediaries used their ties across borders to reshape security politics, affecting American and thereby world history. Skillfully integrating political science with history and sociology, Eric Grynaviski provides a novel account of who matters and why in international politics. By developing broader views about political agency – how people come to make a difference in world politics – he brings into focus new histories of world politics and how they matter for scholars and the public.

Eric Grynaviski is an Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at George Washington University. His first book, *Constructive Illusions* (2014), won the American Political Science Association's Robert L. Jervis and Paul W. Schroeder Best Book Award for International History and Politics. His work has appeared in *International Organization*, *International Theory*, *Security Studies*, the *European Journal of International Relations*, and the *Review of International Studies*.

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Power at the Edge of Empire

ERIC GRYNOWSKI

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For my Parents

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Abbreviations

AHEC	US Army Heritage and Education Center
ARCIA	Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs
CD	Consular Dispatch
CWM	Council for World Mission
LC	Library of Congress
LMS	London Missionary Society
LR	Letters Received
LS	Letters Sent
NARA	National Archives and Record Administration, Washington, DC
NARA II	National Archives and Record Administration II, College Park
NDSW	<i>Naval Documents of the Barbary Wars</i>
R	Roll
RG	Record Group