

◆ Abstracts

José Refugio de la Torre Curiel

This work analyses current standard explanations of Apache and Seri attacks against Spanish settlements on the Sonoran frontier during the second half of the Eighteenth century. It also focuses on the supposedly generalized and permanent state of war waged by the Spanish against these groups. Based upon recent findings from other regions of northern New Spain, this article contends that

frontier societies did not face open warfare against Indian groups; quite on the contrary, war became an important issue because there were groups promoting the idea of war. Furthermore, this work shows that references to Apache and Seri Indians involved a linguistic reformulation which included those persons who had decided to live on the margins of Spanish colonial society.

Rodolfo Fernández y Daria Deraga

This paper deals with three case studies from New Spain, in which changes in land tenure and relocation of regional government seats induced radical changes in boundaries between the mid-Sixteenth century and the end of the Eighteenth

century. The subject is approached from a point of view that conceives place as a generator of space or territory. It is an exercise in which reality is thought of from a perspective of experience, which implies returning to the daily common ways of organizing it.

Mario Valdez

In this essay, I have taken a historian's point of view but have worked with the tools of historical and political geography in order to avoid an "arrogant history" that sees geography as an ancillary science.

My argument is that the conflict between Mexico and Guatemala for the establishment of borderlines after the disappearance of the *border regions* was the result of clashing interests defined in the respec-

tive capitals of the two countries, and that it took on a more arbitrary character due to the predominance of transnational business interests. In this conflict over

Inés Yujnovsky

History has been constructed on the basis of documents and, in the last 150 years, written texts have been predominant. By such means historiographical practice has sought to maintain certain events in our memories. If the sources used have been mainly written, what is remembered is that which somebody has tried to preserve by means of textual discourse. By recovering photographic documents of the past,

territorial control, these business interests completed the territorial appropriation of the natural frontier in Chiapas, Tabasco and the Guatemalan Petén region.

forgotten aspects may acquire visibility. In this paper, I analyze photographs and prints, which served to legitimize the recent consolidation of a government, which attempted to centralize its power and inaugurate a new national era. I present an exercise of historiographical practice, which privileges the historic understanding of images as cultural instruments of a system of domination.