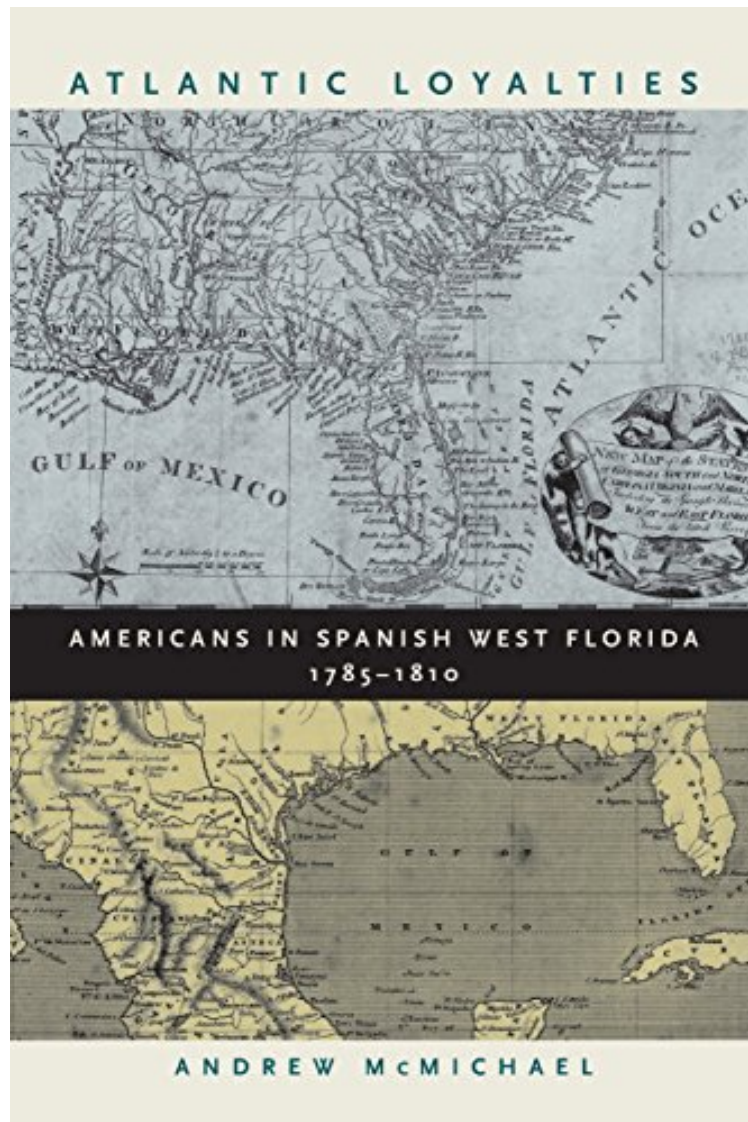


[Library ebook] Atlantic Loyalties: Americans in Spanish West Florida, 1785-1810

Atlantic Loyalties: Americans in Spanish West Florida, 1785-1810

Andrew McMichael

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Andrew McMichael : Atlantic Loyalties: Americans in Spanish West Florida, 1785-1810 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Atlantic Loyalties: Americans in Spanish West Florida, 1785-1810:

Integrating social, cultural, economic, and political history, this is a study of the factors that grounded or swayed the loyalties of non-Spaniards living under Spanish rule on the southern frontier. In particular, Andrew McMichael looks

at the colonial Spanish administrations attitude toward resident Americans. The Spanish borderlands systems of slavery and land ownership, McMichael shows, used an efficient system of land distribution and government patronage that engendered loyalty and withstood a series of conflicts that tested, but did not shatter, residents allegiance. McMichael focuses on the Baton Rouge district of Spanish West Florida from 1785 through 1810, analyzing why resident Anglo-Americans, who had maintained a high degree of loyalty to the Spanish Crown through 1809, rebelled in 1810. The book contextualizes the 1810 rebellion, and by extension the southern frontier, within the broader Atlantic World, showing how both local factors as well as events in Europe affected lives in the Spanish borderlands. Breaking with traditional scholarship, McMichael examines contests over land and slaves as a determinant of loyalty. He draws on Spanish, French, and Anglo records to challenge scholarship that asserts a particularly American loyalty on the frontier whereby Anglo-American residents in West Florida, as disaffected subjects of the Spanish Crown, patiently abided until they could overthrow an alien system. Rather, it was political, social, and cultural conflicts not nationalist ideology that disrupted networks by which economic prosperity was gained and thus loyalty retained.