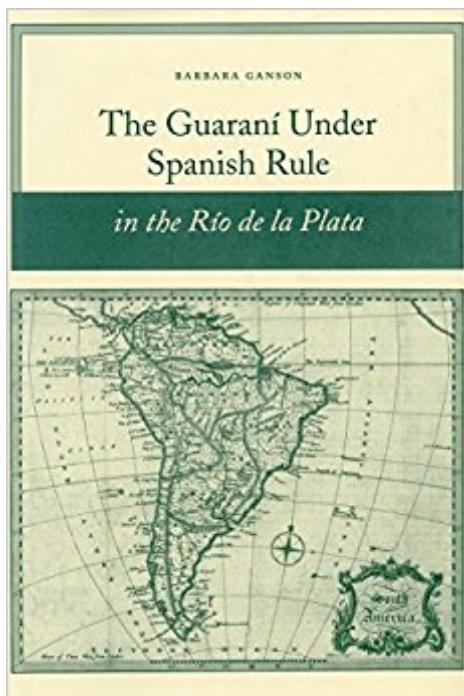


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The Guaraní Under Spanish Rule In The Río De La Plata



Synopsis

This ethnographic study is a revisionist view of the most significant and widely known mission system in Latin America—that of the Jesuit missions to the Guaraní Indians, who inhabited the border regions of Paraguay, Argentina, and Brazil. It traces in detail the process of Indian adaptation to Spanish colonialism from the sixteenth through the early nineteenth centuries. The book demonstrates conclusively that the Guaraní were as instrumental in determining their destinies as were the Catholic Church and Spanish bureaucrats. They were neither passive victims of Spanish colonialism nor innocent children of the jungle, but important actors who shaped fundamentally the history of the Río de la Plata region. The Guaraní responded to European contact according to the dynamics of their own culture, their individual interests and experiences, and the changing political, economic, and social realities of the late Bourbon period.

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Customer Reviews

"This book, which may well supersede most of its predecessors, is a must for those who care about the subject, and will interest many who know nothing about it."—D.B. Heath, Brown University "Barbara Ganson is the first historian to understand the mission Guaraní of Paraguay...This important work sets a high standard. On these famous missions, Ganson is now the best authority."—The Catholic Historical Review "Barbara Ganson's study is a comprehensive collection of historical sources that explain the conditions of the Guaraní indigenous people in the last half of the eighteenth century. . . . [T]his study makes a major contribution towards explaining the emergence of the Paraguayan peasantry and the collapse of

significant Guaraní- resistance throughout the Southern Cone by 1820."—Histoire Sociale/Social History

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I was interested in this book because of a *Salvia* plant! The plant comes from the area near the Rio de la Plata....so a very compelling book about these people...curiosity is a fabulous thing to have...it opens new worlds...and this was a revealing look at Spanish Catholic rule in South America...so glad I got it...fascinating read...and the book was exactly what I wanted...and the plant? *Salvia guaranitica*!

Serious research about the Guaraní- culture, clear order of historical events with lots of references. It was just what I needed for mythesis.

Ganson's account of the Guaraní- , predominantly under the watchful eye of the Jesuits in the 16th and 17th century is a must read if you're interested in Latin American history. The Guaraní- are one of the few people whose culture has been left so engrained in modern society. Paraguay is still deeply influenced by the Guaraní- , and Ganson's book goes into detail of why exactly the Guaraní- 's culture was able to persist in the manner it did. Highly recommended!

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