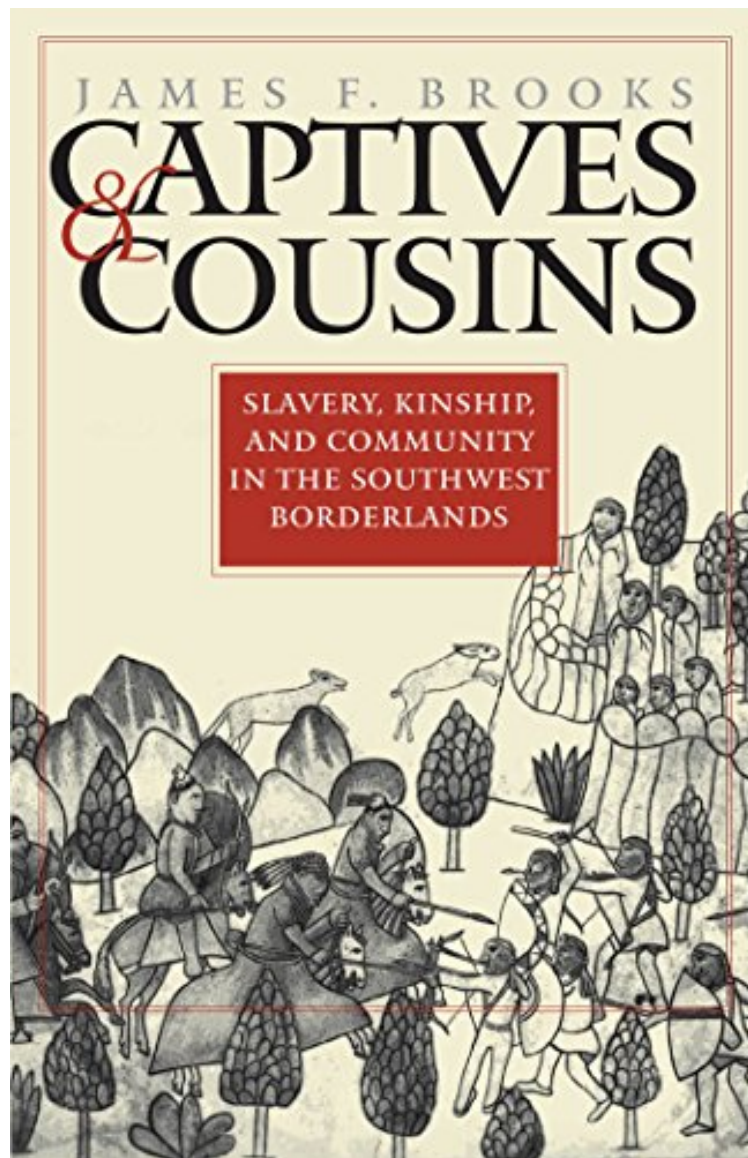


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Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands

James F. Brooks

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This sweeping, richly evocative study examines the origins and legacies of a flourishing captive exchange economy within and among native American and Euramerican communities throughout the Southwest Borderlands from the Spanish colonial era to the end of the nineteenth century. Indigenous and colonial traditions of capture, servitude, and kinship met and meshed in the borderlands, forming a "slave system" in which victims symbolized social wealth, performed services for their masters, and produced material goods under the threat of violence. Slave and livestock raiding and trading among Apaches, Comanches, Kiowas, Navajos, Utes, and Spaniards provided labor resources, redistributed wealth, and fostered kin connections that integrated disparate and antagonistic groups even as these practices renewed cycles of violence and warfare. Always attentive to the corrosive effects of the "slave trade" on Indian and colonial societies, the book also explores slavery's centrality in intercultural trade, alliances, and "communities of interest" among groups often antagonistic to Spanish, Mexican, and American modernizing strategies. The extension of the moral and military campaigns of the American Civil War to the Southwest in a regional "war against slavery" brought differing forms of social stability but cost local communities much of their economic vitality and cultural flexibility.

Makes it impossible for historians to ignore colonial relationships in the Southwest that began contemporaneously with Jamestown and Plymouth and developed throughout the colonial period. (Karen Ordahl Kupperman, New York University) This is a stunning book, likely to be controversial in its particulars. (Richard White, Stanford University) Bold and brilliant. This vivid narrative tells us why people simultaneously preyed on one another and absorbed one another in this violent land. (David J. Weber, Southern Methodist University) Bold and brilliant. [This] vivid narrative tells us why people simultaneously preyed on one another and absorbed one another in this violent land. (David J. Weber, Southern Methodist University) "Makes it impossible for historians to ignore colonial relationships in the Southwest that began contemporaneously with Jamestown and Plymouth and developed throughout the colonial period." Karen Ordahl Kupperman, New York University "Brooks tells this history with clarity and judiciousness." -- "Journal of American History" "This is a stunning book, likely to be controversial in its particulars." -- Richard White, Stanford University "Bold and brilliant. [This] vivid narrative tells us why people simultaneously preyed on one another and absorbed one another in this violent land." -- David J. Weber, Southern Methodist University "Contributes important new perspectives to continuing debates and opens new doors for comparisons and syntheses of borderlands as contested spaces of power and merging identities." -- "New Mexico Historical " From its first memorable sentences until its final words, Captives Cousins will hold many of its readers hostage.--Journal of American History Brooks tells this history with clarity and judiciousness.--Journal of American History I opened up this book and could not put it down. I was just knocked out by the fact that someone could be writing about slavery in such a new and totally fresh way that expands our horizons geographically and chronologically. It's so rare that you get bowled over by a work in your own field.--Scott McLemee, Chronicle of Higher Education This is an extraordinary book based on an imaginative reading of the documentary record and a judicious use of anthropological theory. By weaving ritual, folklore, and individual stories together with legal, ecclesiastical, and statistical evidence, Brooks has produced a book that satisfies the heart as well as the mind.--Theda Perdue, American Historical This is a stunning book, likely to be controversial in its particulars. . . . A kaleidoscopic history, Captives and Cousins is a wonderfully specific study about New Mexico but full of big ideas that will illuminate other places at the margins of states and empires.--Richard White, Stanford University Captives and Cousins presents a creative rereading of the historiography that produces a new vision of slavery, kinship, and community; its fresh look at the sources leads to a completely new understanding of slavery in the region.--Hispanic American Historical This evocative study explores the captive exchange economy and the interactions between slave, Native American, and Euramerican communities in the Southwest Borderlands.--Civil War Book [A] masterful, splendidly written book.--Western Historical Quarterly James Brooks takes the sources seriously--including transcribed oral traditions, drawings, folklore, dances, pageants, and archaeology as well as Spanish written reports. In his argument, he stretches our understanding of the nature of colonial slavery and of the dynamic processes through which kin

networks created new peoples. This beautifully written book makes it impossible for historians to ignore colonial relationships in the Southwest that began contemporaneously with Jamestown and Plymouth and developed throughout the colonial period.--Karen Ordahl Kupperman, New York UniversityOffers a fresh and insightful new perspective. . . . A synthesis of borderlands history that is relevant not only for students of northern Mexico and the American West, but for all who are interested in the interconnections between slavery, race and ethnicity.--American StudiesContributes important new perspectives to continuing debates and opens new doors for comparisons and syntheses of borderlands as contested spaces of power and merging identities.--New Mexico Historical Bold and brilliant, James Brooks's fresh look at raiding and slaving takes us beyond the familiar categories of Indians and Hispanics to reveal the deep divisions of gender and class within each group. Sweeping over four centuries, his vivid narrative tells us why people simultaneously preyed on one another and absorbed one another in this violent land.--David J. Weber, Southern Methodist UniversityCaptive Cousins is an important book that has the potential to reconfigure the study of slavery, colonialism, trade, violence, and gender and even the language in which such histories are written. Brooks achieves such important contributions because of his prodigious command of sources and his able use of anecdotes to bring this lost past alive. Hopefully the book will mark not so much the next generation of middle ground studies but instead signal a new conceptual direction for American historians to take.--Canadian Journal of HistoryBrooks's broad and ambitious interpretation of the Southwest is carefully argued in its details and is based on exhaustive research in Spanish-language archives. It is furthered bolstered by an impressive use of anthropology, especially the well-developed literature on African kinship slavery. . . . An innovative and truly important work. It will inform scholarship on early America and on borderlands regions for many years to come.--William and Mary QuarterlyAn interesting study of [a] little-known slave system. . . . Brooks illustrates the similarities of Spanish and Indian cultural traditions of capture, enslavement, adoption, and exploitation of outsiders, then examines the groups' similar notions of honor, shame, and gender. . . . Reveal[s] [a] heretofore incompletely understood social and economic Southwest slave tradition.--ChoiceAbout the AuthorJames F. Brooks is president and chief executive officer of the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He is editor of *Confounding the Color Line: The Indian-Black Experience in North America*.