Notes for:
_Negotiated Empires: Centers and Peripheries in the Americas, 1500-1820_
Edited By: Christine Daniels & Michael V. Kennedy

➢ Preface
  o Written by Michael Kennedy
  o Notes the book came out of a conference held at Michigan State University in 1997
  o Created from a number of papers, all from differing historians in the field

➢ “Peripheries, Centers, and the Construction of Early Modern American Empires”
  o Written by Amy Turner Bushnell and Jack P. Greene (Professor in Humanities at Johns Hopkins University)
  o Serves as an introduction into the volume
  o Extensive discussion of the idea of center versus the periphery
  o Introduces all of the major players (Britain, France, Spain, Dutch Republic, Portugal, Russia, and Denmark
  o Spheres of influence; eventual conflicts over their boundaries
  o “the concepts of center and periphery may be usefully applied to the historical understanding of colonial centers and their peripheries in the early modern Americas.”
  o Examines the debate over what constitutes these boundaries and spheres, chiefly between Shils, Wallerstine, and the author, Greene as well as Meinig
  o States the basic information that each successive chapter will contribute, as well as their overall importance to the historiography and the Atlantic World
  o Stated to be a study of the larger Atlantic, but focuses heavily on the Luso-Brazilian world more than the other regions
  o “these fourteen essays consider the applications of center-periphery concepts for the analysis of early modern European empires of the Americas.” (Page 12)
  o “stress the importance of metropolitan inheritances, the incredible adaptability of those inheritances, the agency of settlers, and the power of peripheries to shape the negotiated empires of the early modern Americas.” (Page 13)

➢ “Gates, Patterns, and Peripheries: The Field of Frontier Latin America”
  o Written by Amy Turner Bushnell (Associate Professor of History at College of Charleston)
  o Outlines three propositions to explore history:
    ▪ Paradigm of power: determined what is significant and what is not
    ▪ Paradigm of the victim: the obverse of the first paradigm and lends it support
    ▪ Paradigm of negotiation: examines the mechanisms other than force that deliver balance to relationships and keep disparate societies in equilibrium.
  o Power often used to discuss history, though victim is a close second
  o Those that use the paradigm of negotiation often do so in terms of agency, e.g. the Africans in the Americas and the Indians in the Spanish Americas
  o Development of the core-periphery model in South America, uses the Viceroyalty of Peru as an example
o Traces the change in ‘frontier’ and the effect of the word on historians
o Showed the historiographical changes and the historians that made them, chiefly the Borderlanders in both North America and Latin America

➤ “Integral to Empire: The Vital Peripheries of Colonial Spanish America”
o Written by John Jay TePaske (Professor of History at Duke University)
o Identifies many of the frontiers associated with Spanish America, shifting for each epoch of colonial change
o Mining frontiers played a critical role in the development of the viceroyalties, along with agricultural and livestock
o Notes the carving of the viceroyalties over the course of the 17th and 18th centuries showed the frontiers disappearing and becoming more of the core
o “Spanish colonization of the New World encompassed a host of medieval institutions that held sway throughout virtually the entire colonial epoch.” (Page 33)
o Examines the role of the clergy and the medieval institutions in early exploration and their later forms in the colonies
o Emphasized the role of the peripheries, such as Huancavelica and Havana, in protecting and spreading Spanish interests (Florida for the protection of the treasure fleets en route back to Spain)
o Posits the question of how the Spanish, as a medieval empire that stumbled upon the New World by accident, grew to such heights and how the institutions that came from Spain kept their hold in colonial society

➤ “Reconsidering the Center: Puebla and Mexico City, 1550-1650”
o Written by Ida Altman (Professor of History at the University of New Orleans)
o Focuses entirely on Mexico City and its influences, ranging from the Aztec capitol to its role in the Viceroyalty of Mexico
o Noted the relationship between the communities of the countryside and the larger towns and cities; emphasized how similar their relationships were to Spain’s
o Contrasts Mexico City with the lesser but still important city of Puebla, in the same region as the capital
o Puebla stood as important crossroads for long-distance trade with Guatemala, Peru, and even the Philippines
o Nearly equal to Mexico City in regards to ecclesiastical importance and involvement
o Role of the natives in the development of Puebla’s economy; leading textile manufacturer of New Spain
o Gave examples of several immigrants that moved to Puebla, depicting the draw that the city had
o Puebla was the center rather than the periphery to the briocenses moving to the region

➤ “Colonial Centers, Colonial Peripheries, and the Economic Agency of the Spanish State”
o Written by Lyman Johnson (Professor of History at UNC Charlotte) and Susan Migden Socolow (Professor of Latin American History at Emory University)
o Economic perspectives of the Spanish colonial empire
o Focuses on the Viceroyalty of Peru and its changing role/centers/peripheries
Inca influences on the development of the center, Lima became the primary center for the region.

Mining played a huge role in both Upper and Lower Peru, drove much of the economy along with the trade routes.

Examines several smaller regional economies that “illustrate the economic integration of the viceroyalty from colonial periphery to colonial center.” (Page 65)

Interaction between Lima and Buenos Aires

➢ “Bourbons and Barabaros: Center and Periphery in the Reshaping of Spanish Indian Policy”
  o Written by David Weber (Professor of History at Southern Methodist University)
  o “Bourbon officials moved with renewed vigor to win the allegiances of the independent Indians who lived along and beyond the peripheries of the Empire.” (Page 79); idea of bolstering borders
  o Original ideas of ignoring the Indian country along the borders became moot, several situations being the threatening of the commercial viability of Spain’s colonies
  o Two initial ideas: send men to fight or clergy to convert
  o Early brutal actions shifted to the idea of winning the Indians over peacefully

➢ “Centers and Peripheries in the Luso-Brazilian World, 1500-1808”
  o Written by A.J.R. Russell-Wood (Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University)
  o Center of Brazil as the main bastion in Portuguese American colonial holdings
  o Examines the policies of Portugal towards Brazil and “the rigidity of such policies and attitudes and then turn to how centralization and royal and councilor edicts notwithstanding, there was the potential for flexibility and negotiation.” (Page 106)
  o Absolute authority in the Portuguese Empire, jurisdiction handed down via governors and nobility
  o Common disregard of colonial interests by the crown became more and more commonplace
  o Policy of cultural imperialism, no universities were setup in the colonies
  o Tremendous dominance of the periphery by the center
  o Development of negotiation between the Crown and the colonies in the Americas, subtle shift seen in the consistent siding of the Crown’s representatives with colonial interests
  o Colonial commerce demonstrated the examples of center-periphery relationships, Brazil as center
  o Change in the model eventually allowed the Portuguese king to see Brazil on Brazilian rather than on Portuguese terms
  o Developed far more autonomy than other colonies, even before the Crown moved to Rio de Janeiro

➢ “The Periphery of the Periphery: Vila Boa de Goias”
  o Written by Mary Karasch (Professor of History at Oakland University)
  o Case study of Vila Boa de Goias in response to Russell-Wood’s essay
  o Attempted to show how this town became a defacto center for the region it was in
- Location was key; great trade routes and merchant presence
- Data heavy, showed the economic gains and revenue that the city brought in and distributed in trade
- Taxes as levied by the Portuguese government in Portugal
- Ends this study with three questions that posit ideas surrounding the use of Goias as an example of many other similar regions in Latin America

- “Other Netherlands Beyond the Sea: Dutch America between Metropolitan Control and Divergence, 1600-1975”
  - Written by Wim Klooster (Assistant Professor of History at University of Southern Maine)
  - Dutch colonized many different locations, all across parts of the Americas
  - Attempt to examine how the government dealt with such a decentralized colonial empire
  - Economic considerations for each colony, profit vs. loss
  - Solution to the issue of dispersed metropolitan centers was to form a joint stock company to oversee much of the economic aspects of Dutch trade
  - Emphasizes the impossibility of placing Dutch culture in regions where much of what was required was slave society
  - Made keen note that the frontier for the Dutch marked the boundary between civilization and barbarism, not because of the Indians, but because the settlers generally became lawless as they left the civil society

- “Center and Periphery in French North America”
  - Written by Leslie Choquette (Associate Professor of History at Assumption College)
  - First look at the French colonies, treated as both a center and was also a frontier for most of its existence
  - Very ambivalent monarchy compared to Portugal
  - Need for the French colonists to interact and negotiate with the native Indians shown as example of center encompassing the periphery and vice versa
  - Pointed out that the French colonial system was more in tune with modern commercial society

- “The Frontier Era of the French Caribbean, 1620s-1690”
  - Written by Philip Boucher (Professor of History at University of Alabama Huntsville)
  - Role of the French islands, chiefly Dominica and Saint Domingue
  - Conflict and negotiation with the Indians, question of space and expansion on the islands
  - Loose French control over the islands, but grew more stable in the late 17th century
  - Much discussion of the idea of frontier, using the smaller islands as examples of such regions; involvement of African slaves in the colonial societies
  - French islands grew from a society with slaves to a slave society, though much slower than Barbados or Jamaica did

- “Negotiating an Empire: Britain and Its Overseas Peripheries, 1550-1780”
  - Written by Elizabeth Mancke (Associate Professor of History at University of Akron)
British Empire had to deal with several differing divides, first being the spatial in regards to oceanic and territorial peripheries
- Elaborated on the theory that early modern European monarchs lacked the financial resources and coercive power to create overseas empires through the extension of authority from a metropolitan center to colonial peripheries
  - “Transatlantic Colonization and the Redefinition of Empire in the Early Modern Era: The British American Experience”
    - Written by Jack Greene
    - Argues vehemently against the idea that the “establishment of early modern European empires in America as the result of a devolution of authority outward from old European centers to new American peripheries.” (Page 269)
    - Explains Britain’s success in the Americas as having been due to two factors “their extensive commercial activity and their form of governance.” (Page 274)
    - “addition of colonial entities did not produce a devolution of authority, but rather the construction of authority in new arenas, followed by the creation of authority through negotiation.” (Page 11)
  - “Perceptions from the Periphery: Colonial American Views of Britain’s Asiatic Empire, 1756-1783”
    - Written by H.V. Bowen (Head of Department of Economic and Social History at University of Leicester in England)
    - True periphery to Britain’s empire was the Asiatic colonies
    - Eventual shift of Britain’s focus to the East and its decisions there were meant to be reflected in their colonies in the West
    - These decisions left the Atlantic colonies that remained alienated
    - American Revolution showed the difficulty that the British faced when managing an empire on two fronts, particularly one that spanned the globe
    - Significant fears from the Atlantic colonies of “insidious easternization influence of the East India Company
  - “Empire for Liberty: Center and Peripheries in Postcolonial America”
    - Written by Peter Onuf (Thomas Jefferson Professor of History at UVA)
    - Focused on Jefferson and the Federalists in the US
    - His premise was that “the American Revolution precipitated epochal constitutional and conceptual changes reflected in controversy over the implications of territorial expansion for the future of the American union.” (Page 303)
    - He notes dispassionately that “it was the Americans themselves, not foreigners, who seemed determined to limit the operation of a principle that had once promised to transform the world.” (Page 315)
    - Too much vision of the old British Empire and a desire to forge their own through expansion, particularly towards the West

**Lack of a conclusion to sum up what was discussed.
**Impressive endnotes for each of the chapters, some had the page length as long as the endnotes.
**Incredible wealth of information, but repetitive in much of the introductions/broad conclusions.