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### Robert H. Jackson and Edward Castillo, Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonisation: The Impact of the Mission System on California Indians

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*Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization: The Impact of the Mission System on California Indians.* By Robert H. Jackson and Edward Castillo. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1995. 224 pp. Illustrations, tables, appendixes, notes, bibliography, index. \$32.50 cloth.)

In this study, Robert H. Jackson and Edward Castillo attempt to examine the workings of the Franciscan missions in Alta California, with a focus on the impact the missions' attempts at acculturation had on the indigenous peoples of that region. As with much of Professor Jackson's previously published material—especially his 1994 book *Indian population Decline: The Missions of Northwestern New Spain, 1687-1840*—this present tome primarily is an ethnocentric history which advocates Sherburne Cook's conclusions about the Franciscan missions of California and the indigenous peoples first published a half-century ago.

In setting such an agenda for their work, the authors established the boundaries of their inquiry, which generally shaped their interpretations of Spanish governmental policy and Franciscan activity. While their effort under review here does not reflect the outwardly blatant anti-Catholicism and anti-Spanish biases exhibited by Professor Jackson in many of his earlier works, *Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization* nonetheless seemed to dwell upon the Junípero Serra, O.F.M., beatification-canonization struggle in California of a few years ago, Professors Jackson and Castillo consistently aligning themselves with the sentiment opposing Serra's canonization.

The authors divided their work into five brief chapters, a conclusion, and three long appendixes, the latter section consisting of fifty-five pages of tables which charted the various missions' grain production, livestock enterprises, and so forth. Of significance, the book's bibliography could have been much stronger. The *Archivo General de la Nación* was cited, as were five American archives. However, none of the Mexican ecclesiastical archives were consulted—some of which could have provided Jackson and Castillo with much needed historical insight into the formation of the Franciscans who manned the missions under study.

Spanish sources were almost entirely ignored, especially the major archives such as the *Archivo Histórico Nacional* in Madrid and Simancas. Important Spanish works, such as José María Iraburu's *Hechos de los apóstoles de América* (Fundación GRATIS DATE), were not even mentioned. Conversely, Professors Jackson and Castillo cited their own publications a total of nineteen times in the bibliography.

The weakness of the bibliography in terms of historical breadth is reflected in *Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization's* narrow representation of acculturation of the indigenous peoples in the missions as the Franciscans had actually intended such to develop. In their efforts to write an

ethnohistory assessing the impact of Spanish Catholic acculturation efforts in the Franciscan missions of Alta California, Professors Jackson and Castillo have exhibited a basic ignorance of the religious dimensions of Spanish Catholic history which would have so strongly impacted the Spaniards' labors in the missions aimed at acculturation. This is not surprising, given the authors' dedication to the ideas of Sherburne Cook.

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