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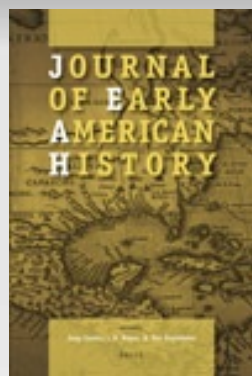
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The American Revolution on the Periphery of Empires: Don Bernardo de Gálvez & the Spanish-American Alliance, 1763–1783



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It was something of an embarrassment to the founding generation of the United States that freedom had been won from America's two arch enemies, France and Spain. The Spanish Empire in America was clearly at odds with the revolution. It stood as a traditional enemy, but it adhered tightly to monarchy and Roman Catholicism – which together amount

American Patriot could imagine, second only (at the moment) to British tyranny. The Spanish American campaign of 1783 did not at all reflect a shared democratic political identity or solidarity with the English American rebels. Every campaign in the Southeast is a quintessential *American* story. This essay argues that new Enlightenment ideas about governance within the Spanish imperial system and did not necessarily entail American independence, that the American emphasis on social cooperation between diverse peoples, and finally that Galvez was successful in Louisiana precisely because of his style of governance such as transparency and tolerance.

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