

## **THE SPANISH LEGACY IN THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST AND THE QUESTION OF CITIZENSHIP**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Spain's long hegemony over large portions of the Americas throughout the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries has left an enduring legacy. The particularity of the Spanish colonial system, however, has resulted in the emergence of a distinctive culture that stemmed from the Spanish as well as Indian traditions. The significance of this Indian-Spanish heritage is that it heavily influenced the Anglos racialization of the ceded lands Mexicans. While the Spanish element seemed, at times, to be an efficient means by which Mexicans could acquire a good position in the American racial order, the same Spanish element also seemed to be a curse on Mexicans.

**Keywords:** Spanish legacy; American racial order; Anglo-Americans; Mexicans.