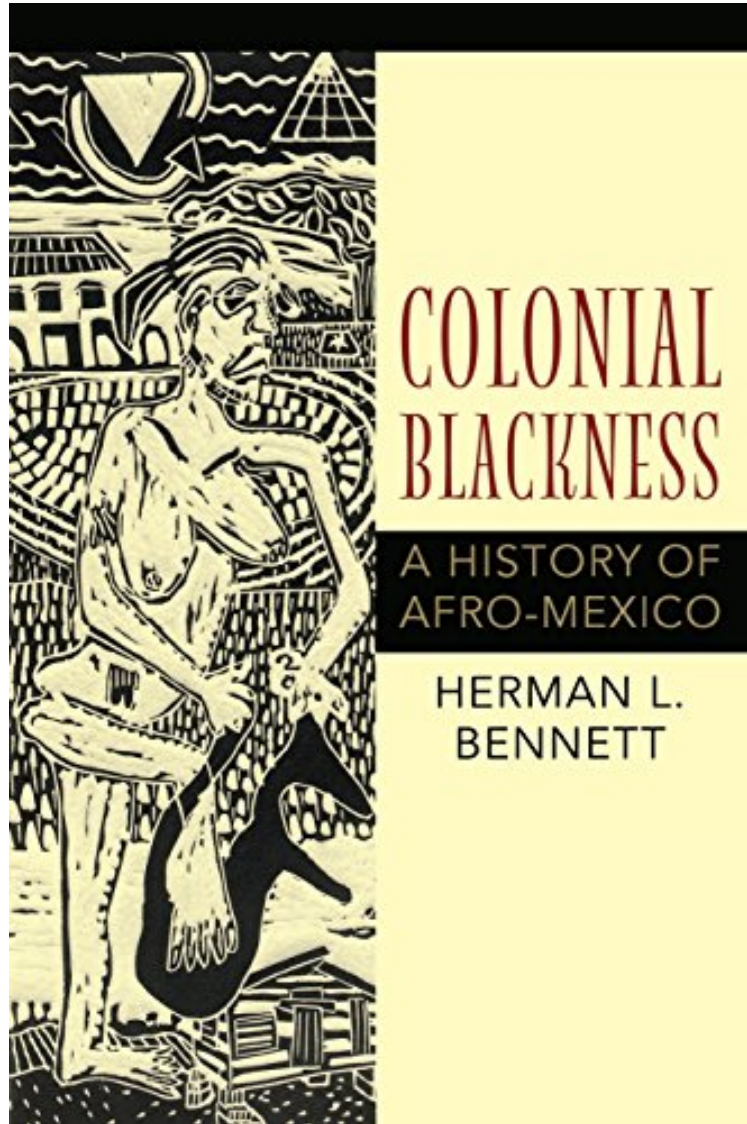


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## Colonial Blackness: A History of Afro-Mexico (Blacks in the Diaspora)

*Herman L. Bennett*

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#696168 in Books Bennett Herman L 2010-11-29 2010-11-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.25 x .66 x 6.121, .88 #File Name: 0253223318248 pages Colonial Blackness A History of Afro Mexico | File size: 31.Mb

**Herman L. Bennett : Colonial Blackness: A History of Afro-Mexico (Blacks in the Diaspora)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Colonial Blackness: A History of Afro-Mexico (Blacks in the Diaspora):

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. It needed to incorporate more recent research By Jason Lilienthal On

the one hand, exploring the issue of freedom Afro-Mexicans lived through the rights of being Christianized was excellent in terms of expanding Diasporic studies beyond the typical study on their inferiority status in colonial Mexican society. Utilizing Christian matrimony as the inaugural point to living a free life, Bennett demonstrated that they were free to exercise control over their bodies and families because they were Catholic and through their Christian relations. On the other hand, Bennett ignored research that could have been used to further strengthen his point, even if it countered his argument. Often times, Bennett made broad generalizations. Another negative point was the knocking down of straw men and direct scathing attacks on other scholars. One gets the impression that Bennett did this in order to gain attention for the purposes of advancing his career, i.e. full tenure or emeritus status. 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Daniel Cendejáz Very detailed writing on the folks of African ancestry, including those of mixed ancestry. 0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. great historical read By Stanley V. Woodard Unrecognized history, especially for those from Mexico and Central America through South America. It shows that we are brothers/sisters of African heritage.

Asking readers to imagine a history of Mexico narrated through the experiences of Africans and their descendants, this book offers a radical reconfiguration of Latin American history. Using ecclesiastical and inquisitorial records, Herman L. Bennett frames the history of Mexico around the private lives and liberty that Catholicism engendered among enslaved Africans and free blacks, who became majority populations soon after the Spanish conquest. The resulting history of 17th-century Mexico brings forth tantalizing personal and family dramas, body politics, and stories of lost virtue and sullen honor. By focusing on these phenomena among peoples of African descent, rather than the conventional history of Mexico with the narrative of slavery to freedom figured in, *Colonial Blackness* presents the colonial drama in all its untidy detail.

A fascinating study . . . Bennett . . . challenges mission historians to go beyond those generalizations that often marginalize people and to examine not only the written sources about such groups but also to examine their behavior, creatively using archival sources that are available. (Larry Nemer Missiology) What light is shed upon old topics when new sources are examined! In this major work on Afro-Mexican and, really, general Spanish American history, Bennett prowls through the neglected Mexican archival records [and] uncovers a vibrant black community developing its own customs and practices. . . . In place of a weak, shattered individualistic society . . . Bennett's Afro-Mexicans were a community that soon counted a majority of freedmen living in an urban setting. What a contrast with the Afro-Cuban slave society evolving to the east. . . . Highly recommended. (Choice) Oct. 2013 (Bulletin of Latin American Research) [T]his text, compelling and persuasive both in theoretical argumentation and use of primary sources, is a major achievement in understanding and reframing Afro-Mexican history. It is highly recommended for the sophisticated specialist already familiar with more conventional studies of Afro-Latin American history, and one who is also necessarily conversant with the terminology of postmodern and postcolonial studies. Vol. 17.1, Winter 2008 (Colonial Latin American Historical ) A powerful piece of revisionist history. (Ben Vinson Johns Hopkins University) Bennett challenges his readers to rethink the black experience in colonial Mexico. . . . He persuasively argues that exploitative labor systems, violence, and social hierarchy cannot, by themselves, define Afro-Mexican history; past studies . . . have flattened out and simplified our view of people of color, ignoring their private lives and their efforts at community formation. To put it another way, the slavery paradigm has overwhelmed alternate narratives of 'freedom' and 'blackness.' Bennett seeks to bring these hidden narratives to light. (Robert Douglas Cope Brown University) *Colonial Blackness* makes a crucial contribution to the burgeoning literature on persons of African descent in Spanish America. Focusing on the middle period of colonial rule, Herman Bennett challenges us to rethink the cultural history of Afro-Mexicans in ways that go beyond deterministic frameworks of enslavement and oppression. This is an innovative work that will prove fascinating reading for anyone studying colonial Latin America or the African Diaspora. (Barbara Weinstein New York University) About the Author Herman L. Bennett is Professor of History at The Graduate Center, CUNY, and author of *Africans in Colonial Mexico: Absolutism, Christianity, and Afro-Creole Consciousness, 1570-1640* (IUP, 2003).