

## Welcome to Volume 9 of the Toro Historical Review!

Volume 9 includes student papers from several Spring 2020 courses spanning across different time periods and continents. About half way through the semester Covid-19 hit and practically from one day to the next, our campus shut down. In addition to the many struggles that we all shared (and continue to share) because of the global pandemic, student researchers now also faced a closed library and therefore significant additional research hurdles. I want to take this opportunity and congratulate our student authors on their excellent research and writing and our TTHR student editorial board for their unwavering dedication and hard work in the midst of a global health crisis.

Beginning with the senior seminar (HIS 490) papers developed in Dr. Kate Fawver's seminar in Early American History, students 1) articulated an appropriate historical topic for investigation, 2) formulated concrete research questions, 3) placed research in correct historiographical and in historical contexts, 4) selected and analyzed a variety of appropriate primary and secondary sources, and 5) conveyed argument (thesis), evidence, and conclusion in clear prose and in effective oral presentation. In particular, research projects from this course showcase data from the *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition* and other quantitative data collections from online archives in order to systematically and meaningfully engage historical debates in the field of Early American history. Ana Garcia explored "The Institution of Slavery on British Colonial America. Katia Kevorkian developed a critical analysis of "Families and Households in New England and the Chesapeake." And Timothy Severtson took on "America's Martial Culture and its Evolution: A Look at the Warrior Class in Colonial America."

Dr. Doris Namala's Historiography seminar (HIS 400) papers focus on colonial Mexican ethnohistory, in particular scholarship within the New Philology, the native-language driven approach to researching colonial Mexican indigenous history. Cesar Ovando, in "Surviving the Colonial Experience: A Historiography of Mayan Preservation in the Guatemalan Highlands" argues that despite the Spaniards' conquest, colonialization, and massive exploitation, the scholarship overwhelmingly finds that the Maya survived physically and culturally by responding and adapting to the new colonial realities. Jasmine Abang and Vanessa Smith's historiographic reviews focus on central Mexico. While Jasmine explored the historiography around "Religion in Colonial Mexico," Vanessa focused her attention on "Native Communities in Colonial Mexico," in particular the altepetl of Tlaxcala. Both trace a scholarly conversation around indigenous continuities and changes within colonial religious beliefs and practices as well as sociopolitical and economic realities.

History 300 is the introductory course to historical methods and skills. Students in Dr. Andrea Johnson's course developed their skills by conducting primary source research on WWII social history topics. In addition, they learned writing structure and citation formats common to the discipline. Johnathan Serrano's paper discusses the ways in which WWII era propaganda was designed to influence the American home front.

In addition to these seminar papers, Volume 9 also showcases 2 book reviews developed in Dr. Joshua Jeffer's HIS 300 course focused around North American indigenous history. In examining historian Blake Watson's argument concerning the role of the Doctrine of Discovery in the legal termination of Native land rights, Amanda Mendoza highlights the long shadow of the *Johnson v. McIntosh* (1823) ruling and its appeal to the Discovery Doctrine in later court rulings, including rulings made during twenty-first century. Wesley Campbell, in discussing historian Pekka Hämäläinen's groundbreaking work *The Comanche Empire*, emphasizes the sophistication and lethal effectiveness of the Comanche raiding economy. He also explores the broader historiographical significance of this work, observing the profound reorientation of southern Plains history that Hämäläinen's work has wrought.