

Acknowledgments

This book began as a series of informal conversations between Andrés Reséndez, Alexandra Stern, Samuel Truett, and Elliott Young at meetings of the Latin American Studies Association, the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, and the Conference of Mexican, United States, and Canadian Historians. As we shared insights and stories from our respective journeys across northern Mexico and the U.S. Southwest, we began to realize that we were part of something larger than ourselves. It took us a while to understand what this common ground was, and what, exactly, tied our work together. This book is part of this ongoing discussion. We offer few definitive conclusions, but we hope to have posed larger questions that others will find useful as they explore this place and idea called the borderlands.

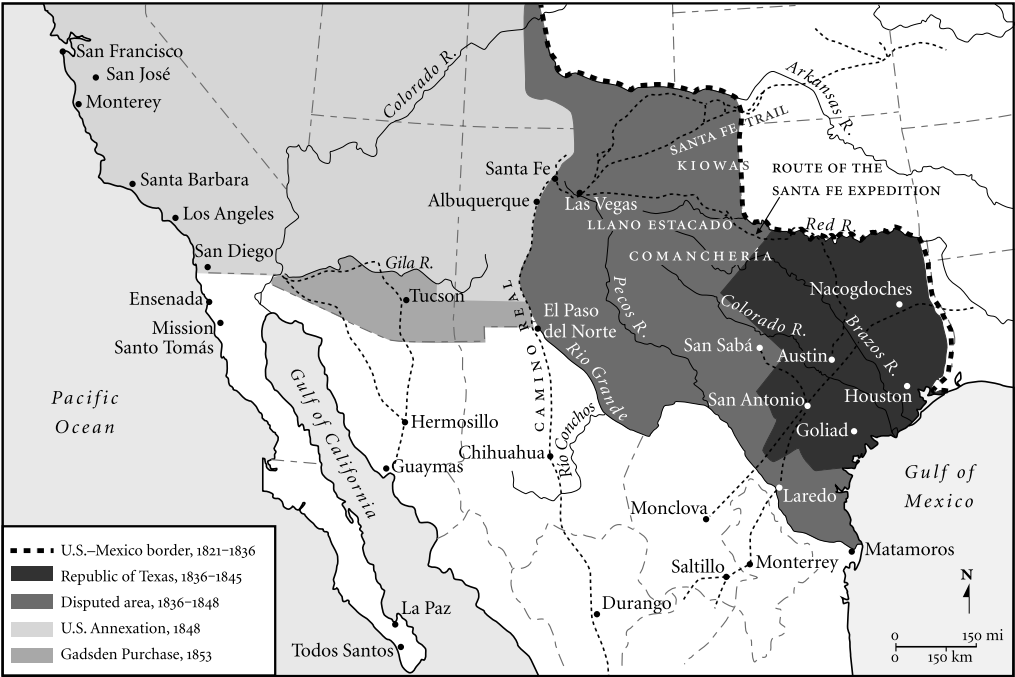
A project such as this requires the fortitude and patience of many people. First, we would like to thank Andrés Reséndez and Alexandra Stern, who were part of the original gang of four, and remained trusted advisors throughout the process. Second, we would like to thank the contributors to this volume for offering us creative and original works, engaging in exciting intellectual exchange, offering valuable advice on the introductory essay, responding to our suggestions and editorial advice, and keeping to the deadlines. Third, we owe a great debt of gratitude to David Weber, who has been a steadfast supporter of the project from the very beginning. David not only wrote an elegant foreword but also generously arranged and financed a special manuscript symposium at the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University. We would also like to thank Sherry Smith, Karl Jacoby, and Benjamin

Johnson, who offered invaluable advice in helping us to organize this symposium.

The Clements Center symposium allowed the contributors to meet face to face for a memorable weekend and to engage regional scholars and an astute public. After years of virtual conversations and editing, it was a delight to have warm bodies to connect with the digital prose. The symposium—which included a series of presentations and public engagements—reminded us of the intellectual energy and feisty debates that borderlands history can inspire. It is rare for an academic symposium to end with beads of sweat forming on foreheads, but such is the nature of a field in ferment. We thank the public participants for traveling hundreds of miles to participate in these discussions. We offer special thanks to Andrea Boardman, Ruth Ann Elmore, and the rest of the generous staff at the Clements Center for their flawless organization and good cheer. We would also like to thank David Weber and the Clements Center for their subvention of the maps and production of the final book. We hope it will be worth their generous support.

The anonymous readers at Duke University Press provided invaluable comments on the manuscript and motivated us all to rethink our essays and the ways they spoke to one another. We also owe special thanks to Bárbara O. Reyes, Raúl Ramos, and Luis Alvarez for their close readings of penultimate drafts of the introductory essay. We thank Valerie Millholland and Miriam Angress at Duke University Press, who helped us navigate the potentially treacherous waters of a multiauthor volume with patience and wisdom, and Natalie Hanemann, who drew the maps. Finally, Gilbert Joseph wisely advised us to send the manuscript to Duke University Press in the first place and continued to give valuable support throughout the long publication process.

We hope that this volume will open up new dialogues between Latin Americanist, U.S. West, and Chicana/o historians, anthropologists, literary critics, and cultural studies scholars. Rather than enforce new fences and borders, we want to build bridges. We will have succeeded if our readers, like us, discover new colleagues and friends in a variety of different fields, and become themselves new world border crossers.



U.S.-Mexico borderlands, 1821-1854.



U.S.-Mexico borderlands after 1848 (western half).



U.S.-Mexico borderlands after 1848 (eastern half).

