


Note on Sources

 Archival materials are drawn from a number of record sets held in the Archivo General de la Nación (AGN, Mexican National Archives) in Mexico City. The most significant of these sets are Inquisición (cited as Inq), Indios (Indios), Criminal (Criminal), Civil (Civil), and Bienes Nacionales (BN). Inquisición holds proceedings of the Holy Office of the Inquisition, which functioned to suppress heresy in Mexico throughout the colonial period. Indios contains texts relating to Indian matters that were heard before the viceroy and the General Indian Court. Criminal holds texts pertaining to penal matters heard and decided by the *audiencia* (royal high court), while Civil contains texts relating to what were deemed civil disputes, also heard by the *audiencia*. Bienes Nacionales consists of ecclesiastical records.

Additional information from the AGN was drawn from the following record sets: Ordenanzas (Ord), Historia (Historia), Reales Cédulas Duplicadas (RCD), Reales Cédulas Originales (RCO), General de Parte (GP), Mercedes (Mercedes), and Tierras (Tierras). Ordenanzas covers various official regulations concerning social conduct. Reales Cédulas Duplicadas and Originales hold royal orders directed to colonial authorities. General de Parte contains requests, complaints, and demands presented in writing to the viceroy or to the *audiencia* relating to viceregal decisions and orders. Historia is a series of manuscripts originally collected by the viceroy's office in the late eighteenth century in order to prepare a general history of the Indies. Mercedes is the registry for viceregal dispatches, mostly regarding royal land grants.

Tierras principally contains documentation regarding land and water disputes.

In addition to the AGN, I consulted microfilms of correspondence between viceroys and the crown from the Archivo General de Indias in Seville, Spain, which are held in the Museo Nacional de Antropología (National Anthropology Museum) in Mexico City, and several manuscripts from the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia (National Anthropology and History Library), also in Mexico City. These are cited as AGI and BNAH respectively.

Of the approximately one thousand sixteenth- and seventeenth-century court cases, mandates, letters, and reports that I read, a representative sample of about three hundred is used in this book and cited in the following manner: Archive repository and record set, volume number, *expediente* (file), and/or *foja* (page) number, and date. A typical entry thus reads: AGN, Inq vol. 355, exp. 27, 1625. Additional abbreviations are v. for the verso or the left side of a page, r. for the recto or the right side of a page, and bis. for a duplicated expediente number. *Legajo* (leg.) refers to an unbound volume. In the text itself, place name spellings, which can vary in the documentation, follow Peter Gerhard's *Guide to the Historical Geography of New Spain* (1972).