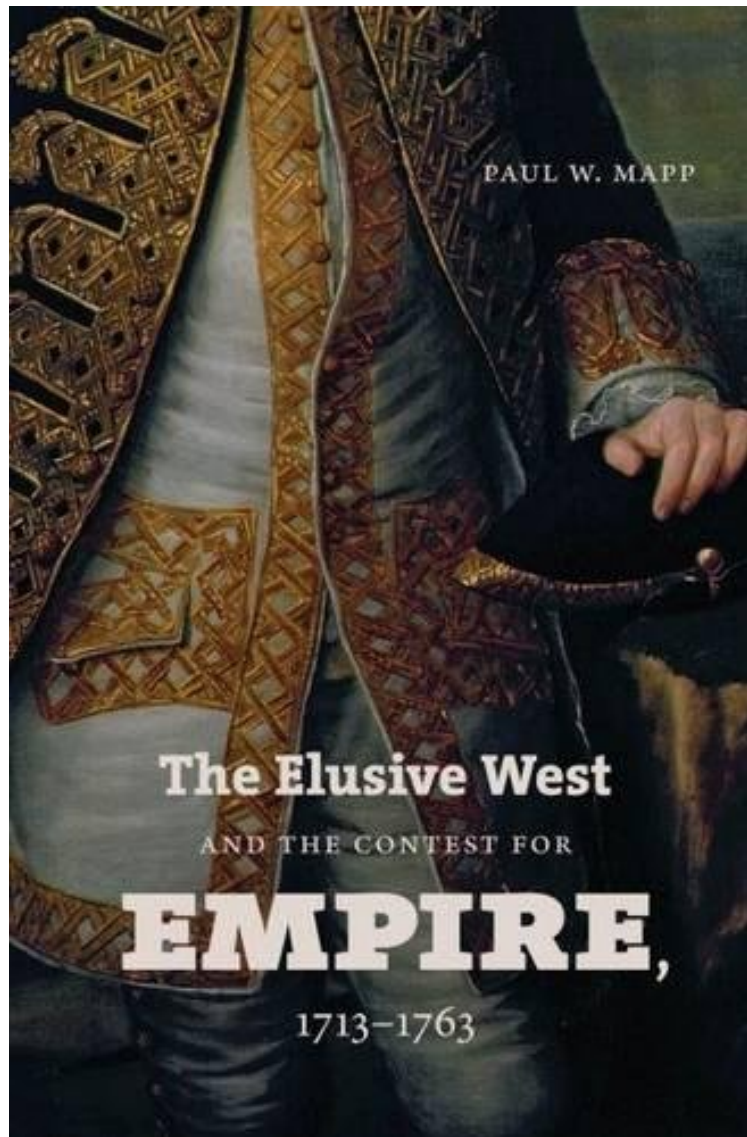


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Paul W. Mapp

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Paul W. Mapp : The Elusive West and the Contest for Empire, 1713-1763 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the University of North Carolina Press) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Elusive West and the Contest for

Empire, 1713-1763 (Published by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the University of North Carolina Press):

10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Good work, but not entirely convincingBy CRMapp's work is useful in drawing attention to the role of the "elusive west" in European thinking at the time of the Seven Years' War. In actuality, as his own footnotes somewhat reveal, the importance of the west among European explorers and leaders is not new to his work. His chief contribution is to show how that illusion shaped the decisions of the French. I'm not convinced that Mapp has correctly interpreted the reason for the French action of passing New Orleans on to Spain. He is certainly off-base in faulting a young George Washington for not going far enough west (!) and in minimizing the role of the Ohio Valley in the war. The history shows what dominated British policy in the west following the war and it wasn't about Mexico or the Pacific Northwest. Although Mapp's focus is on this war, it is surprising that (as a history professor in a major Virginia college), he nowhere notes the early history of the elusive west in the thinking of Virginians from Governor Berkeley to the explorers of the Trans-Allegheny region (e.g. Batts, Fallan, Lederer, and others). It is most unfortunate that he approves uncritically Higonnet's misleading analysis of the sequence of the events leading to the war, which was not the result of the cupidity of British governors, but of the way in which British officials in London and French officials in Paris perceived each others' global ambitions and especially their American territorial claims. Apparently, the author has not studied T.R. Clayton's refutation (1981) of Higonnet's misunderstandings or he would not think the latter offered "the best analysis" of these preliminary events. In his "Crucible of War," Fred Anderson and Daniel Baugh in his "Global Seven Years' War" more perceptively followed Clayton. At the same time, these short comings do not detract from the Mapp's contribution. No one can fault Mapp's scholarship and the brilliant way in which he presents his case. Nor could an author want a better production of his/her work than that produced here by the University of North Carolina Press.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book is very good for the understanding the global process in XVIII centuryBy Mary Anne JunqueiraI am a brazilian historien. The book is very good for the understanding the global process in XVIII century.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Alfonso Quiones Seguragood book.

A truly continental history in both its geographic and political scope, *The Elusive West and the Contest for Empire, 1713-1763* investigates eighteenth-century diplomacy involving North America and links geographic ignorance about the American West to Europeans' grand geopolitical designs. Breaking from scholars' traditional focus on the Atlantic world, Paul W. Mapp demonstrates the centrality of hitherto understudied western regions to early American history and shows that a Pacific focus is crucial to understanding the causes, course, and consequences of the Seven Years' War.

Deeply researched and carefully argued.--American Historical Mapp's prose is lucid and engaging, and he displays a dazzling knowledge of early modern European cartography. . . . [This] book is first class all the way, from the many reproduced maps to the generous space allotted for the index, and it is a pleasure to pick up and peruse.--Arkansas Historical QuarterlyWell organized, written, and indexed. . . . A must read for anyone wishing to understand the historical significance and complexities of the early 18th century colonial world.--The Journal of the North Carolina Association of HistoriansAn impressively well-researched and thoughtful work.--Southwestern Historical QuarterlyThe book's analysis of nearly forty maps, its wide-ranging archival research, its original translations from French and Spanish sources (often rendered in the original language in the notes), and the extensive historiography in the footnotes all add up to a scholarly tour de force.--Journal of Southern History[The book] reveals an enormous amount about how geographic information traveled in imperial circuits, explaining in minute detail how crucial geopolitical decisions were made.--William and Mary QuarterlyDeeply researched and beautifully written and illustrated book. . . is highly recommended.--Tennessee Historical Quarterly[A] thought-provoking study of the eighteenth-century colonial West before 1763.--The HistorianAn excellent job of placing Spanish Bourbon political aims and actions in a multilateral and multinational context, moving the history of the American West toward a pluralistic vision encompassing the histories of the French, Spanish, British, and, occasionally, Russian efforts that preceded the westward movement of people from the United States.--Hispanic American Historical Mapp displays a knowledge of European diplomacy and Borderlands history that will dazzle. . . . [He] places the elusive West back on the misinformed maps of the time and restores contingency to the course of empire.--New Mexico Historical Thoughtfully researched, structured, and argued. . . . Mapp has written an excellent book.--Journal of Interdisciplinary HistoryRecommended for classroom use and the general history buff seeking a new perspective.--Colonial Latin American Historical This is connected history on a grand scale, though Mapp never lets the considerable erudition that undergirds it get in the way of the story he so masterfully tells. . . . Remarkably well written and accessible.--Diplomatic HistoryThe Elusive West and the Contest for Empire is written in a graceful, conversational style that asks good questions and makes thoughtful answers.--Journal of American HistoryAn incredible work of history.--Terrae IncognitaeOne of the smartest pieces of scholarship on the eighteenth century published in the last decade. . . . A

possible revolution in Seven Years War historiography.--H-Diplo RoundtablePath-breaking. . . . A rich and novel story that will force historians to rethink some of the standard interpretations of the struggle for empire in 18th-century North America.--London of Books By examining geographic misunderstandings of North America, Mapp helps us see imperial successes and failures in an entirely new way. His insights are based on his own expansive knowledge of the long history of exploration and map-making by multiple empires, as each tried to capture the elusive nature of the continent's interior. An important and innovative book.--Kathleen DuVal, University of North Carolina, Chapel HillBrilliantly calculating the costs of ignorance, Paul Mapp shows that what eighteenth-century European statesmen didn't know about the North American interior not only hurt the empires they served, but reshaped the world itself. The Elusive West utterly reorients our understanding of the period 1713-1763. It is a superb book.--Fred Anderson, University of Colorado, BoulderThe Elusive West puts Paul Mapp at the forefront of an exciting generation of continental early Americanists. His dazzling research combines diplomacy and geography with political, military, and intellectual history. This trailblazing book gives weight to the vast American West, both real and imagined, during the vital half-century before 1763.--Peter H. Wood, Duke University, emeritusFrom the Inside FlapA truly continental history in both its geographic and political scope, *The Elusive West and the Contest for Empire* investigates eighteenth-century diplomacy involving North America and links geographic ignorance about the American West to Europeans' grand geopolitical designs. Breaking from scholars' traditional focus on the Atlantic world, Paul W. Mapp demonstrates the centrality of hitherto understudied western regions to early American history and shows that a Pacific focus is crucial to understanding the causes, course, and consequences of the Seven Years' War.