

This book is suitable for individuals interested in American history, cultural studies, and fashion history.

Jaqueline Navarro

Carole A. Myscofski. *Amazons, Wives, Nuns, and Witches: Women and the Catholic Church in Colonial Brazil, 1500-1822*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013. Pp. 320. Hardcover \$55.00.

Carole Myscofski, Professor of Religion at Illinois Wesleyan University, argues that colonial Brazilian women were instructed on how to fill their role in society according to both religious and state authorities. Amazons were forced to become either wives, nuns, or witches due to the rigid structures of patriarchal society. Moreover, not every woman was worthy of marriage and skin color was closely related to honor. Chastity was an absolute necessity for honorable women, compelling the creation of alternate models for the vast majority of women who did not fit the ideal.

The book is organized thematically, exploring different roles women occupied. Historical background of pre-colonial Brazil sets up the discussion of the Amazons and their place in society prior to European contact. This contact would prove to be the stepping stone to understanding why Europeans placed restrictions on the women of Brazil. Amazonian women were not considered honorable because European colonizers saw them as sexual and open, almost masculine in some regards, which was intolerable in European eyes. Myscofski takes special care in examining chastity, highly prized by Europeans for ensuring paternity of descendants.

Myscofski juxtaposes the Christian ideal of a religious, chaste, obedient, European wife with both the societal viewpoint and individual women's interpretation. Women's subjection is an important theme, including concu-

bines. While men attempted to control their wives and concubines, women reacted and defined their own place in the restrictive society. Women were not limited to being the wives of men, but could also be the wives of God, creating different communities of women devoting themselves to religion. These communities were composed of women from diverse backgrounds, bending the restraints of society rather than defying them. Yet another group of women practiced witchcraft, defiantly breaking social convention. Though Europeans attempted to restrict such practices, women actually expanded the rituals, rebelling against religious and state authorities.

Myscofski relies on archival sources such as manuscripts of inquisition texts, letters, statutes, and chronicles. The thorough examination of colonial Brazilian women and their role in society may not be unique to Myscofski, however, her comprehensive analysis written in English is unrivaled.

This book lays a solid foundation to explain why restricting females to a domestic sphere was considered necessary by European men and explains how women maneuvered around societal the expectations. This is highly recommended for those interested in colonial Latin America, women's studies, and Brazilian history.

Guadalupe Peña

Claudia Koonz. *The Nazi Conscience*. Harvard University Press, 2005. Pp. 368. Paper \$24.50.

According to Claudia Koonz, Professor of History at Duke University, conscience not only defines one's moral obligations, but also to whom one owes those obligations. German national identity and moral duty to others were redefined under Nazi rule. The Nazi regime told Germans that their only responsibility was to the wellbeing of their own