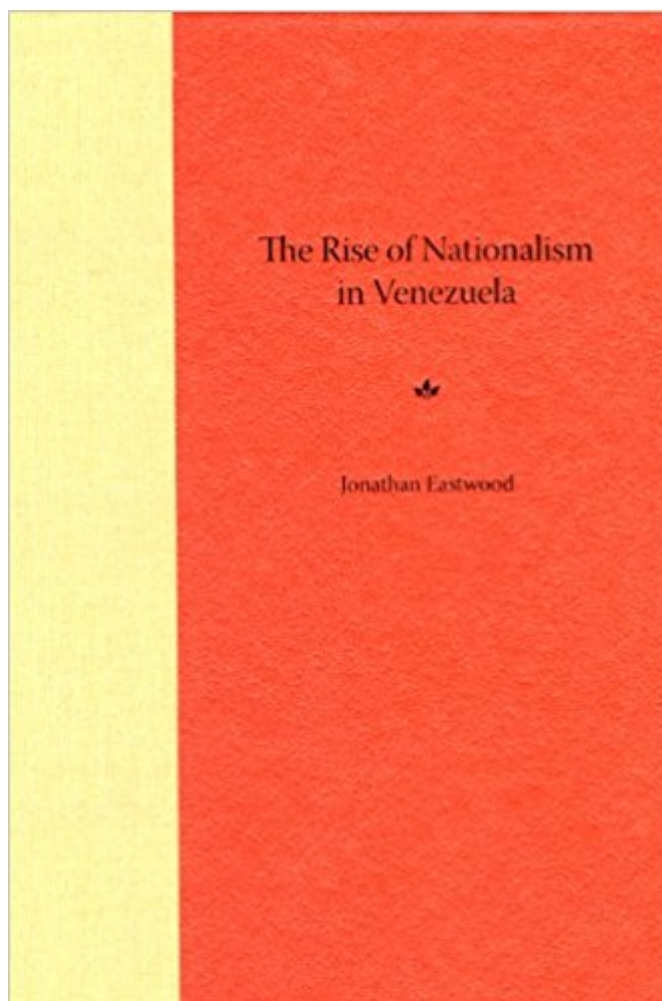


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The Rise Of Nationalism In Venezuela



Synopsis

Eastwood offers a novel account of the rise of nationalism in Venezuela and the broader Hispanic world. Beginning with analysis of the origins of Spanish nationalism in the eighteenth century, he examines the character of social life in Venezuela during the colonial period, showing there was no national consciousness there for the bulk of this period and sketching those characteristics of colonial Caracas that made its elite so receptive to nationalism by 1810. He analyzes the process by which this elite turned to nationalism, considers the various competing nationalisms of the early nineteenth century, and argues that, among other things, the nationalism that emerged in this region was notable for its civic and collectivistic character. —qualities, he contends, that contributed to strains of authoritarian politics in later Venezuelan political life.

Drawing on political and social theory— notably Weberian historical sociology—and historical scholarship, Eastwood tracks the intellectual shifts and changes pertaining to ideas of nationhood that were the precondition for a specific Venezuelan version of nationalism. His study reveals much about Venezuelan national history, the nature of nationalism, and the roots of authoritarian and democratic government in contemporary Venezuela.

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"For all that has been written about this period, there is nothing like Eastwood's close reading and perceptive analysis . . . sharply presented with considerable intelligence and no small amount of

very close reading of the historical sources." -- Robert Ferry

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