Contacts, collisions and relationships [Britons and Chileans in the Independence era, 1806-1831 /

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Monografía

This is a study of the relations between Britain and Chile during the Spanish American independence era (1806-1831). These relations were characterised by a dynamic, unpredictable, and changing nature, imperialism being only one and not the exclusive way to define them. The book explores how Britons and Chileans perceived each other from the perspective of cultural history, considering the consequences of these 'cultural encounters' for the subsequent nation-state building process in Chile. From 1806 to 1831 both British and Chilean 'state' and 'non-state' actors interacted across several different 'contact zones', and thereby configured this relationship in multiple ways. Although the extensive presence of 'non-state' actors (missionaries, seamen, educators and merchants) was a manifestation of the 'expansion' of British interests to Chile, they were not necessarily an expression of any British imperial policy. There were multiple attitudes, perceptions, representations and discourses by Chileans on the role played by Britain in the world, which changed depending on the circumstances. Likewise, for Britons, Chile was represented in multiple ways, the image of Chile acting as a pathway to other markets and destinations being the most remarkable. All these had repercussions in the early nation-building process in Chile

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