



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
3990 West Lakeshore Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808-4684  
(225) 578-8282  
www.lsupress.org

# BOOK NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Jenny Keegan  
225.578.6453 / [jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu](mailto:jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu)

### **The Southern Frontier of Early America**

*Historian F. Todd Smith explores the unique diversity of the early Gulf South*

**Baton Rouge**—Bound together by social, demographic, and economic commonalities, the Gulf South territory extending from East Texas to West Florida occupies a unique space in early American history. A masterful synthesis of two decades of scholarly work, F. Todd Smith's ***Louisiana and the Gulf South Frontier, 1500–1821***, to be published by LSU Press in November 2014, examines the region's history from the eve of European colonization to the final imposition of American hegemony.

The agricultural richness of the Gulf Coast gave rise to an extraordinarily diverse society: development of food crops rendered local indigenous groups wealthier and more powerful than their counterparts in New England and the West, and white demand for plantation slave labor produced a disproportionately large black population compared to other parts of the country. European settlers were a heterogeneous mix as well, creating a multinational blend of cultures and religions that did not exist on the largely Anglo-Protestant Atlantic Coast.

Because of this diversity, which allowed no single group to gain primacy over the rest, Smith's study characterizes the Gulf South as a frontier from the sixteenth century to the early years of the nineteenth. Only in the twenty years following the Louisiana Purchase did Americans manage to remove most of the Indian tribes, overwhelm Louisiana's French Creoles numerically and politically, and impose a racial system in accordance with the rest of the Deep South.

Moving fluently across the boundaries of colonial possessions and state lines, *Louisiana and the Gulf South Frontier, 1500–1821* is a comprehensive and highly readable overview of the Gulf Coast's distinctive and enthralling history.

**F. Todd Smith** is professor of history at the University of North Texas and the author or coauthor of five books, including *Colonial Natchitoches: A Creole Community on the Louisiana-Texas Frontier* and *From Dominance to Disappearance: The Indians of Texas and the Near Southwest, 1786–1859*.

November 2014  
288 pages, 6 x 9, 8 maps  
978-0-8071-5710-7  
Cloth \$42.50s, ebook available  
Southern History / Louisiana Studies

To request a review copy or set up an interview with the author,  
please contact Jenny Keegan at [jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu](mailto:jenniferkeegan@lsu.edu).

###