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978-0-521-88744-1 - Salvation and Globalization in the Early Jesuit Missions

Luke Clossey

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Salvation and Globalization in the Early Jesuit Missions

This is the first truly global study of the Society of Jesus's early missions. Up to now historians have treated the early-modern Catholic missionary project as a disjointed collection of regional missions rather than a single world-encompassing example of religious globalization. Luke Clossey shows how the vast distances separating missions led to logistical problems of transportation and communication incompatible with traditional views of the Society as a tightly centralized military machine. In fact, connections unmediated by Rome sprung up between the missions throughout the seventeenth century. He follows trails of personnel, money, relics, and information between missions in seventeenth-century China, Germany, and Mexico and explores how Jesuits understood space and time and visualized universal mission and salvation. This pioneering study demonstrates that a global perspective is essential to understanding the Jesuits and will be required reading for historians of Catholicism and the early-modern world.

Luke Clossey is Assistant Professor of History at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia.

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for

Alda Alari, Andrea Baccanini, 陈志坚, 冯科, 傅捷, 莉迪娅,
李建军, Astrid Meyer, Fabio Micieli, Antonino Nico-
tra, Andrew Redden, Alisa Roth, 施诚, Pawel Stefaniak

and all the other faraway friends I found

while doing this research,

for distracting me from this research,

and for reminding me that

you don't have to be a Jesuit to care about distant souls.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>List of Tables and Charts</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
1 Introduction	1
2 Organizing the Society of Jesus	20
3 Decentralizing the Society of Jesus	45
4 Imagining Global Mission	68
5 Space, Time, and Truth in the Jesuit Psychology	90
6 The Missionary Motivation	114
7 The Jesuit Missionary Network	136
8 The Jesuit Financial Network	162
9 The Jesuit Information Network	193
10 The Jesuit Sacred Economy	216
11 An Edifying End: Global Salvific Catholicism	238
<i>Appendix A. Abbreviations for Document Sources</i>	259
<i>Appendix B. Chronological Tables (1540–1722)</i>	262
<i>Appendix C. Principal Prosographical Information</i>	270
<i>Appendix D. Monetary Systems</i>	273
<i>Works Cited</i>	275
<i>Index</i>	311

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88744-1 - Salvation and Globalization in the Early Jesuit Missions

Luke Clossey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of Tables and Charts

Tables

1	Languages in Jesuit Probation House, Vienna, 1642	<i>page</i> 36
2	Languages in Jesuit College of Prague, 1675	36
3	Languages in Jesuit College of Prague, 1678	37
4	Ferdinand von Fürstenberg's mission stations	182

Charts

1	Typology of Jesuit Attitudes towards Salvation	122
2	<i>Indipetae</i> from Central Europe preserved in ARSI	152

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88744-1 - Salvation and Globalization in the Early Jesuit Missions

Luke Clossey

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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[†] "¿Adónde hemos venido a dar? Esto, sin duda, es la mismísima cola del mundo!" Quoted in Bernd Hausberger, *Jesuiten aus Mitteleuropa im kolonialen Mexiko* (Munich: R. Oldenbourg, 1995), 68.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-88744-1 - Salvation and Globalization in the Early Jesuit Missions

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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