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978-1-107-01528-9 - The American National State and the Early West

William H. Bergmann

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The American National State and the Early West

The American National State and the Early West challenges the widely held myth that the American national state was weak in the early days of the republic. William H. Bergmann reveals how the federal government used its fiscal and military powers and bureaucratic authority to enhance land acquisitions, promote infrastructure development, and facilitate commerce and communication in the early trans-Appalachian West. Energetic federal state-building efforts prior to 1815 grew from national state security interests as Native Americans and British imperial designs threatened to unravel the republic. Through partnerships with white westerners and western state governments, the federal government encouraged commercial growth and emigration, transforming the borderland into a bordered land. Taking a regional approach, this work synthesizes the literatures of social history, political science, and economic history to provide a new narrative of American expansionism.

William H. Bergmann is an assistant professor in the department of history at Slippery Rock University.

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To my mother, father, and Lara

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