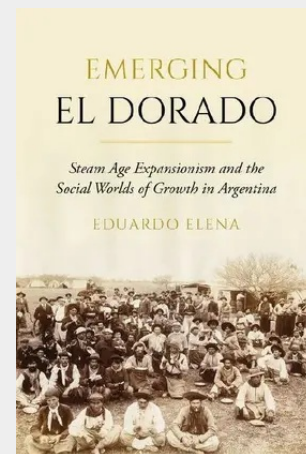


Emerging El Dorado

Steam Age Expansionism and the Social Worlds of Growth in Argentina

The scramble for distant riches has featured centrally in the history of the Global South—from the first forays of European imperialists to the recent fascination with emerging markets. In the mid-nineteenth century, fortune hunters turned their attention to Argentina, transforming it into a front line of an expanding West. While accounts of this period often emphasize impersonal economic flows, *Emerging El Dorado* demonstrates that this chase for wealth has a far more multifaceted, dynamic, and human history. In Argentina, it encouraged explosive growth across several fronts—financial, commercial, demographic, and territorial. Capitalist routines of accumulation coexisted with get-rich-quick ventures, land grabs, and fraudulent schemes. Eduardo Elena's study profiles the promoters in Argentina and Europe who convinced others that this truly was a "rising country." At the same time, the book investigates the experiences of the groups who helped propel expansion, such as migrant families and overseas investors, and those like mixed-race *paisanos/as* and Indigenous peoples who were deemed obstacles. By exploring these overlapping social worlds, *Emerging El Dorado* sheds new light on the roots of our present-day growth dilemmas.

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