

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/raid-and-reconciliation/>

In this discussion, Brandon shares insights about his book, which originated from his doctoral dissertation in Borderlands history at the University of New Mexico, defended in 2013. His motivation was to detail the often-overlooked history of a specific section of the US-Mexico border, particularly in the context of events like Pancho Villa's 1916 attack. The book aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the area's historical significance, linking early conflicts, such as the Apache Wars, to modern development efforts influenced by capitalism from both the US and Mexico.

Brandon emphasizes the importance of archival research across multiple locations including New Mexico and Mexico City, which shaped his manuscript's evolution. He explains how modernization initiatives in the late 19th and early 20th centuries affected local communities and reframed the narratives around them, particularly regarding race and identity.

He also contextualizes Villa's actions within broader territorial and economic dynamics, showing how the border has historically been a site of both conflict and cooperation. Brandon hopes readers gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of border life and recognize that, despite historical violence, many people's daily experiences on the border are not defined by it, fostering a richer perspective on national identities and relationships between the US and Mexico.