



### Colonial Urbanism in the Age of the Enlightenment

The Spanish Bourbon Reforms in the River Plate

By Claudia Murray

**Pub Date:** 14 July 2026      **BISAC CATEGORY:** HISTORY / Modern / 18th Century  
**Binding:** Paperback  
**Price:** £25.00 / \$35.00      **BISAC CODE:** HISo37050  
**ISBN:** 9781839999772      **BIC CODE:** H  
**Extent:** 258 pages  
**Size:** 153 x 229 mm / 6 x 9 inches

**Tells the story of how the monarchy aimed at creating a new capital city in a remote and forgotten area of the empire and shows how the local Creole bourgeoisie rapidly assumed the role of urban developers and enhanced their economic status by investing in and controlling the Buenos Aires' property market.**

This book tells the story of how the monarchy aimed at creating a new capital city in a remote and forgotten area of the empire and shows how the local Creole bourgeoisie rapidly assumed the role of urban developers and enhanced their economic status by investing in and controlling the Buenos Aires' property market.

#### Key selling points

- First study looking at urban development and society during the eighteenth century in the River Plate
- Presenting primary sources that have not been uncovered before; collected from archives in Spain, Argentina and special collections in England.
- A new reading of the history focusing on the dominated and their coping strategies against the Empire
- First study to uncover the workings of real estate markets and investment mechanisms during the eighteenth century in Latin America.

#### Contents

List of Figures and Tables; Acknowledgements; Introduction; 1. The Spanish Empire before the Bourbon Reforms; 2. The River Plate before 1776 and the Bourbon Reforms; 3. Urban Expansion; 4. The Image of Power; 5. Ceremonies of Power; 6. Disciplining Porteños' Private Architecture; 7. The British Assault on the River Plate; Appendix 1; Bibliography; Index

#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

**Claudia Murray** is a research fellow at the School of Real Estate and Planning, University of Reading. Her research interests focus on the socio-cultural and economic implications of rural and urban development of the built environment.

##### Ordering in North America, Latin America and Caribbean

Ingram Publishers Services (US)  
1 Ingram Blvd. Mail stop  
#512 Laverne, TN 37086, United States  
Tel: +1 866 400 5351  
ips@ingramcontent.com

##### Ordering in the UK/Rest of the World

Ingram Publishers Services (UK)  
1 Deltic Avenue, Rooksley  
Milton Keynes, MK13 8LD  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0) 1752 202300 | Fax: 01752  
202330  
IPSUK.Orders@ingramcontent.com

##### Ordering in Australia

NewSouth Books  
C/O Alliance Distribution Services (ADS)  
9 Pioneer Avenue  
Tuggerah 2259 NSW, Australia  
Tel: +61 (02) 4390 1300 | Fax: +1800-66-44-  
77  
adscs@alliancedist.com.au