

Contents

List of Illustrations, ix

Acknowledgments, xi

Preface, xv

Introduction

Colonialism, Social Compacts, and the Taxonomy of Poverty, 1

PART ONE

The City and People of Quito

1. The City of Quito, 17

2. Living on the Edge: Survival Strategies of the Urban Poor, 35

PART TWO

Society of Compacts: The Social Poor

3. Defining the “Solemn Poor”: Wordplay and Petitions
of Poverty in Colonial Quito, 1678–1782, 65

4. Prostrate before the Feet of the King: Widows, Widowhood,
Pensions, and Colonial Compacts, 99

PART THREE

Society of Compacts: The Economic Poor

5. Children on the Fringe of Empire: The Limits and Uses of
Juvenile Welfare, 125

6. Putting the Colonial (Poor) House in Order:
The Wretched Poor and the Bourbon State, 153

PART FOUR

When Societies Meet: The Blurring of Social Compacts

7. Shifting Compacts of the Traditional Poor:
Widows as *Viudas* and as *Pobres*, 191

8. The Broadening and Narrowing of the Solemn Poor:
Poor Spaniards, the Wretched, and Collapsing Privileges,
1783–1800, 215

Conclusion

The Erosion of Charity, Boundaries, and Colonial Compacts, 245

Appendix, 257

Notes, 261

Glossary, 321

Bibliography, 325

Index, 349