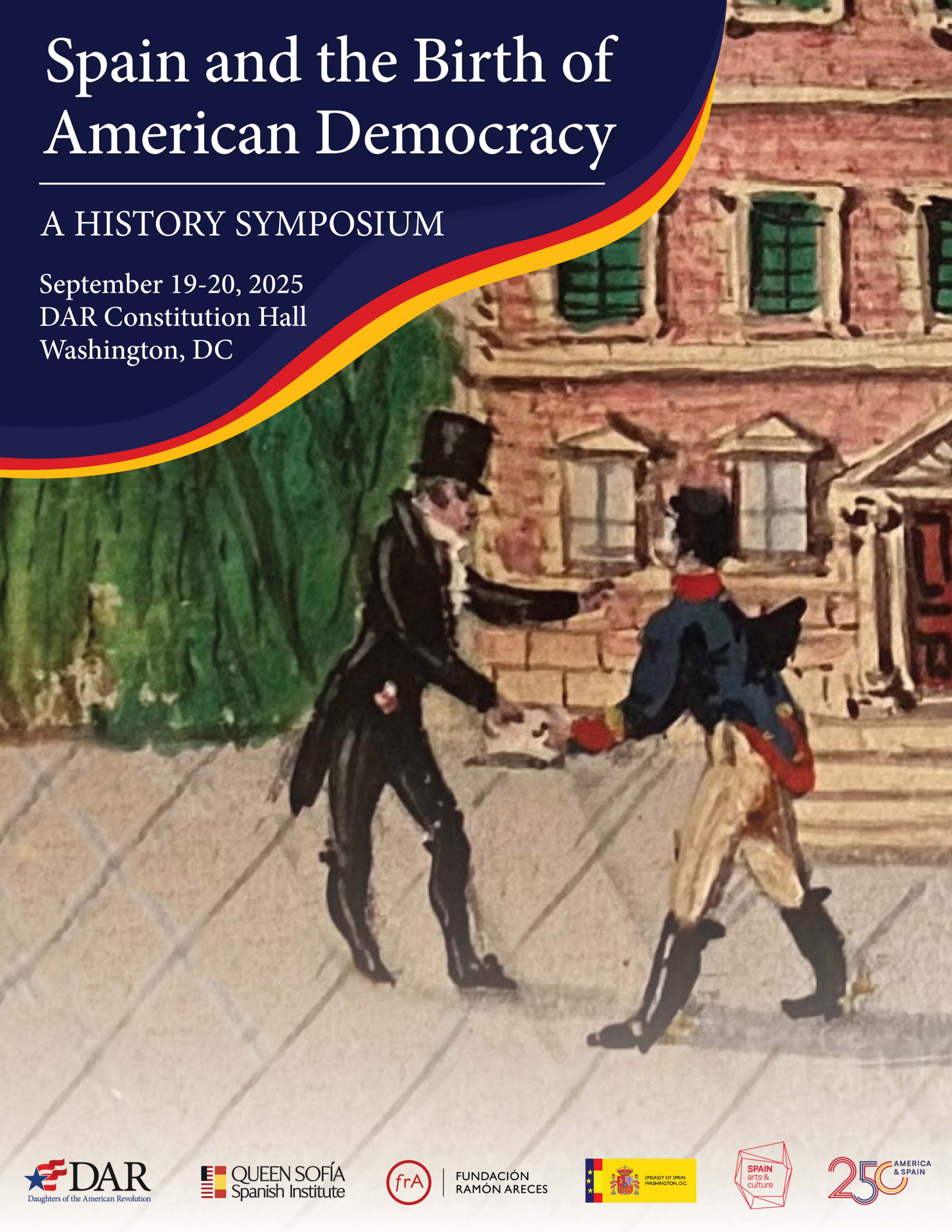


Spain and the Birth of American Democracy

A HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

September 19-20, 2025
DAR Constitution Hall
Washington, DC



FUNDACIÓN
RAMÓN ARECES



PROGRAM

Friday, September 19th, 2025

Opening

4:30 pm **Welcome Remarks**

Ginnie Sebastian Storage, President General of the DAR

Pilar Lladó Arburúa, Chair of the Board of Directors of the QSSI

Raimundo Pérez Hernández y Torra, Director of the Fundación Ramón Areces

H.E. Ángeles Moreno Bau, Ambassador of Spain to the United States

5:15 pm **“Spain in the American Revolution”**

Gonzalo M. Quintero Saravia, PhD, SJD

First Session

The General Picture

5:45 pm **“The World in 1776”**

Professor Gabriel B. Paquette

6:15 pm **“The Spanish Empire in the Long 18th Century”**

Professor Manuel Lucena Giraldo MAE

6:45 pm **Q&A**

7:00 pm **End of First Session**

Saturday, September 20th, 2025

Second Session

Spain's Initial Support to the American Revolution

10:00 am **Bela Valdecabres, PhD, President & CEO of the Spanish Royal Mint**

10:15 am **“The Role of Private Merchants: Gardoqui & Sons, and others”**

Elisa Vargas Vargas PhD

10:45 am **“The Role of Diplomacy”**

Professor Thomas E. Chávez

11:15 am **Q&A**

11:30 am **Coffee Break**

Keynote Address

12:00 pm **“The Erasure of Spain from the United States’ History”**

Professor Richard L. Kagan

12:45 pm **Q&A**

1:00 pm **Lunch Break**

Third Session

Spain at War

- 3:00 pm **“The General Spanish Military Offensive (1779–1783) and Its Contribution to American Independence: Prejudices and Reasons for a Secular Historiographical Omission”**
Hugo O’Donnell y Duque de Estrada, Duke of Tetuán
- 3:30 pm **“The Franco-Spanish combined Royal Navies against the British Royal Navy”**
Professor Larrie D. Ferreiro
- 4:00 pm **Q&A**
- 4:15 pm **Coffee Break**

Fourth Session

Spain-United States Relations After the War, 1783-1795

- 4:45 pm **“Impact and Perceptions of the United States’ Independence in the Spanish Empire”**
Professor Iván Jaksic
- 5:15 pm **“Indigenous Groups in the Borderlands Between the United States and the Spanish Empire”**
Professor Kathleen DuVal
- 5:45 pm **“Afro-Americans in the Borderlands between the United States and the Spanish Empire”**
Professor Jane Landers
- 6:15 pm **Q&A**
- 6:30 pm **Closing Remarks**

SPEAKERS



Thomas E. Chávez

Thomas E. Chávez has a Ph.D. in History from the University of New Mexico. He has published fourteen books, three of which have been published in translation in Spain. He spent a career as a museum director and retired as the Executive Director of the National Hispanic Cultural Center. He is a member of the Orden de Isabel la Católica and El Real Academia de la Historia. The Fundación Xavier de Salas presented him with their first Premio. His latest two books are *The Diplomacy of Independence: Benjamin Franklin Documents in the Archives of Spain* and *Revolutionary Diplomacy: Spanish Connections and the Birth of the United States*.



Kathleen DuVal

Kathleen DuVal is a history professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is a Guggenheim Fellow and the author of *Native Nations: A Millennium in North America*, which won the Pulitzer Prize, the Bancroft Prize, the Mark Lynton History Prize, and the Cundill History Prize. Her other books include *Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution*, *The Native Ground: Indians and Colonists in the Heart of the Continent*, and the U.S. history textbook *Give Me Liberty!* She has published in the *William and Mary Quarterly*, the *Journal of the Early Republic*, *The Atlantic*, *Time* magazine, and the *New York Times*, and she is a regular book reviewer for the *Wall Street Journal*.



Larrie D. Ferreiro

Larrie D. Ferreiro is a naval architect and historian. He is the 2017 Pulitzer finalist for History, for his book *Brothers at Arms: American Independence and the Men of France and Spain Who Saved It*. His latest work, *Churchill's American Arsenal: The Partnership Behind the Innovations That Won World War II* was published under Oxford University Press in 2022. Among his other works are *Measure of the Earth: The Enlightenment Expedition That Reshaped Our World*; *Ships and Science: The Birth of Naval Architecture in the Scientific Revolution, 1600-1800*; and *Bridging the Seas: The Rise of Naval Architecture in the Industrial Age, 1800-2000*. He was co-editor (with Francisco Fernández-González) of *Technology of the Ships of Trafalgar*, and also co-edited *The American Revolution: A World War* for Smithsonian Books.



Ivan Jakšić

Iván Jakšić is currently Director of Stanford University's Bing Overseas Studies Program in Santiago, Chile, and Director of the Andrés Bello Chair at Adolfo Ibáñez University. He received his M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the State University of New York. He has taught at Berkeley, Wisconsin and Notre Dame in the United States, and held research appointments at Harvard, Oxford, and The Massachusetts Historical Society. Jakšić is the author, co-author, editor, and co-editor of more than 30 books, including *Academic Rebels in Chile: The Role of Philosophy in Higher Education and Politics*; *Andrés Bello: Scholarship and Nation-Building in Nineteenth-Century Latin America*, and *The Hispanic World and American Intellectual Life, 1820-1880*. He has received multiple awards, including a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, a distinction from the Pan-American Institute of Geography and History, and Chile's highest award in History. He is a member of several academies of language and history in Chile, Spain, Venezuela, and the United States. He is currently editing the multi-volume *Complete Works of Andrés Bello* under the auspices of the Ignacio Hernando de Larramendi Foundation, the Association of Academies of Language (ASALE), the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, and the National Library of Chile.



Richard L. Kagan

Richard Lauren Kagan, Arthur O. Lovejoy Professor Emeritus of History at Johns Hopkins University and PhD from the University of Cambridge, is an authority on modern history, specifically in the exploration of the intellectual and legal facets of the Spanish Empire during the Habsburg era. The author of numerous works, his most recent book, *The Inquisition's Inquisitor: Henry Charles Lea of Philadelphia* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2025), explores the life and scholarship of the pioneering historian of the Spanish Inquisition. His earlier book, *The Spanish Craze*, delves into America's historical fascination with Spanish literature, art, architecture, and culture. Kagan's significant scholarly contributions have made him a resident member of the American Philosophical Society—where he was recently elected to the governing council—and a corresponding member of the Royal Academy of History.



Jane Landers

Jane Landers is the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of History and Director of the Slave Societies Digital Archive at Vanderbilt University. Since 2015 she has served as the U.S. member on UNESCO's International Scientific Committee for the Routes of Enslaved Peoples. Her award-winning monographs include *Black Society in Spanish Florida* and *Atlantic Creoles in the Age of Revolutions*, and she is the co-author or editor of five other book, and numerous articles and book chapters on the history of Africans in the Atlantic World. Her research has been supported by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Council of Learned Societies, among others. Landers serves on editorial boards of national and international journals and works with public history museums, historical societies, documentary film makers and educators to ensure lesser-known histories become part of our national narrative. Her work with National and State Park Service projects has uncovered Africans in the early Spanish explorations of North America and Fort Mose, the first free black town in what is today the United States.



Manuel Lucena-Giraldo

Manuel Lucena-Giraldo is Research Scientist in the Spanish Council for Scientific Research, CSIC. He was Visiting Scholar at Harvard University, Lecturer BOSP in Stanford University and Visiting Professor at Gothenburg University (Sweden) Tufts University (Boston), Javeriana University (Colombia), Colegio de Mexico, University of the Andes (Chile and Colombia) and St. Antony's College (Oxford). He was Education Attaché in the Spanish Embassy in Colombia and held foreign education positions. His publications include a number of books on travels, scientific expeditions, cities, images of nations, Hispanic History and globalization. He is a member of the Royal Academy of History from Spain, the Colombian Academy of History and the European Academy.



Hugo O'Donnell y Duque de Estrada

Duke of Tetuán. Lawyer and Marine Corps Commander (R). Full member of the Royal Academy of History and corresponding member of the Sevillian Academy of Letters, the Royal Academy of Córdoba, and the academies of history of 16 other countries. Member of the Royal Society of Friends of the Country of Madrid. Academician of Merit of the Royal Academy of Heraldry and Genealogy of Madrid and elected member of the Royal Historical Society of the United Kingdom. Honorary Academician of the Royal Academies of the Sea and of Military Sciences and Arts. Honorary Professor at the Center for National Defense Studies.

He has been vice president of the International Commission for Military History, historical advisor to the Spanish Assembly of the Order of Malta, member of the UNESCO Europa Nostra Awards and the Navy's "Virgen del Carmen" Awards. He is currently vice president of the Spanish Commission for Military History, censor of the Academy of History, and patron of the Royal Board of Trustees of the Naval Museum and the Royal Board of Trustees of the Army Museum. He is also a member of the Council of the Deputation of Grandee and Titles of the Kingdom, a member of the jury for the "Military Orders" awards, and a member of the "Santa Cruz de Marcenado" awards. He is the author of some fifteen important historical books and numerous articles published in national and international specialist journals.



Gabriel B. Paquette

Gabriel Paquette is Professor of History at the University of Maine, where until recently he served as Senior Associate Provost. He previously held teaching, research, and administrative leadership positions at the University of Oregon and The Johns Hopkins University. His books include *The European Seaborne Empires, Imperial Portugal in the Age of Atlantic Revolutions, and Enlightenment, Governance, and Reform in Spain and its Empire, 1759-1808*, the latter of which was based on his University of Cambridge doctoral dissertation. With Gonzalo Quintero Saravia, he edited *Spain and the American Revolution*.



Gonzalo Quintero Saravia

Gonzalo M. Quintero Saravia, PhD in History from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and in Public Law from the UNED, is a corresponding member of the Royal Academy of History and the Colombian Academy of History. He has been a fellow of the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. His book “Bernardo de Gálvez: Spanish Hero of the American Revolution” was awarded the Distinguished Book Award of the Society for Military History for the best biography published in 2018 (published by Alianza Editorial under the title *Bernardo de Gálvez: A Spanish Hero in the American War of Independence*). Among his most recent publications we find: with Professor Gabriel Paquette “Spain and the American Revolution: New Approaches and Perspectives” (New York: Routledge, 2019 and Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2022); “The Participation of France and Spain,” in Wim Klooster ed. “The Age of Atlantic Revolutions. Vol. 1. The Enlightenment and the British Colonies” (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023: 269-295) and with Professor Kathleen DuVal, “Bernardo de Gálvez: Friend of the American Revolution, Friend of Empire,” in Andrew N. O’Shaughnessy, John A. Ragosta, and Marie-Jeanne Rossignol eds. *European Friends of the American Revolution* (Charlottesville & London: University of Virginia Press, 2023, 147-174).



Elisa Vargas Vargas

Dr. Vargas is a multidisciplinary scholar who holds a PhD and an Advanced Studies Diploma in Spanish-American History at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, Spain, based on her investigation “Territory, Landscape and the Construction of a New Republic”. She holds a Master’s degree in International Affairs from Columbia University and a B.A. in Anthropology from the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. Dr. Vargas was a fellow of the Fred W. Smith Library in Mount Vernon and at the Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution Program of the Department of State, Washington D.C. after serving as Advisor for the Presidency of Colombia. She has served as a diplomat in the Colombia’s Mission to the United Nations in New York; been a lecturer at the Johns Hopkins University’s Program for Latin American Studies and in the Master’s Program in International Affairs of the University Pontificia de Comillas (ICADE), Madrid.