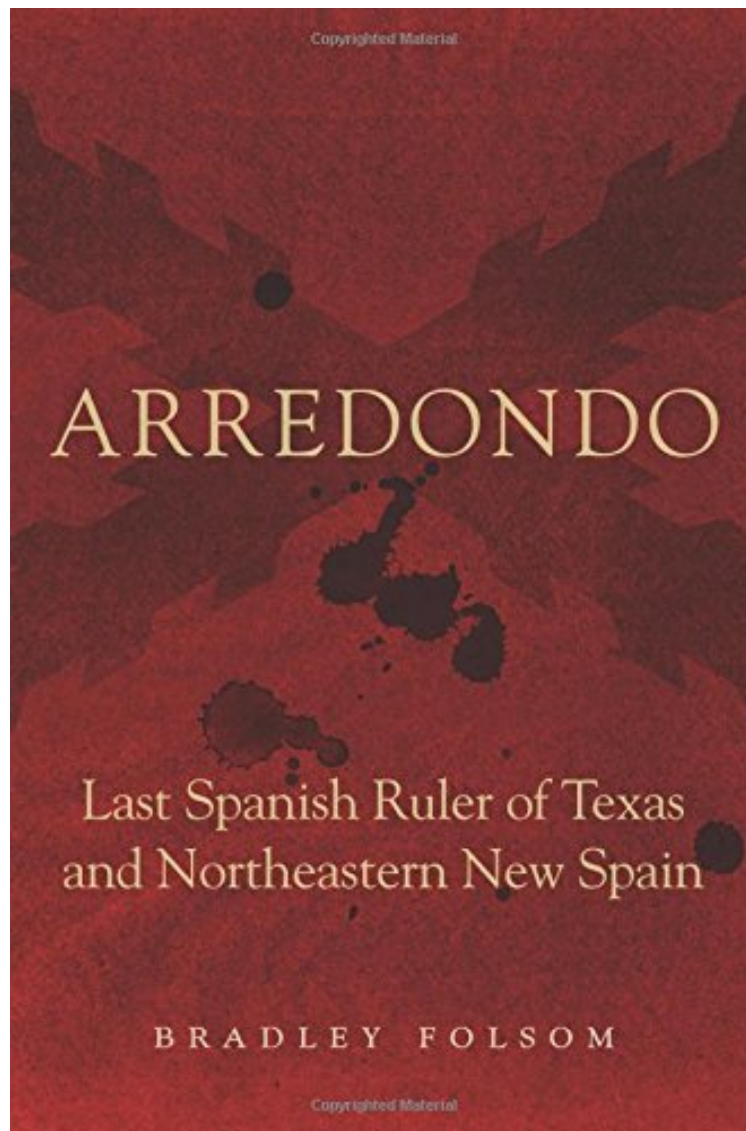


(Read free) Arredondo: Last Spanish Ruler of Texas and Northeastern New Spain (Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture)

Arredondo: Last Spanish Ruler of Texas and Northeastern New Spain (Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture)

Dr. Bradley Folsom

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3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Southwestern History at It's Best By Texas As a fan of Texas history, Professor Folsom's treatment of the rise of Viceroy Arredondo and his impact on New Spain, Mexico and ultimately Texas was a fascinating read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. HEY YOU!!! BUY THIS BOOK!!! By Go Frogs 13 Dr. Folsom's book is must read for anyone interested in Texas history. It also looks great on a coffee table. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. great By Customer great read, interesting look at a little known part of United States and Texas history. highly recommend to any US history buff!

In this biography of Joaquín de Arredondo, historian Bradley Folsom brings to life one of the most influential and ruthless leaders in North American history. Arredondo (1776-1837), a Bourbon loyalist who governed Texas and the other interior provinces of northeastern New Spain during the Mexican War of Independence, contended with attacks by revolutionaries, U.S. citizens, generals who had served in Napoleon's army, pirates, and various American Indian groups, all attempting to wrest control of the region. Often resorting to violence to deal with the province's problems, Arredondo was for ten years the most powerful official in northeastern New Spain. Folsom's lively account shows the challenges of governing a vast and inhospitable region and provides insight into nineteenth-century military tactics and Spanish viceregal realpolitik. When Arredondo and his army, which included Arredondo's protégé, future president of Mexico Antonio López de Santa Anna, arrived in Nuevo Santander in 1811, they quickly suppressed a revolutionary upheaval. Arredondo went on to expel an army of revolutionaries and invaders from the United States who had taken over Texas and declared it an independent republic. In the Battle of Medina, the bloodiest battle ever fought in Texas, he crushed the insurgents and followed his victory with a purge that reduced Texas's population by half. Over the following eight years, Arredondo faced fresh challenges to Spanish sovereignty ranging from Comanche and Apache raids to continued American incursion. In response, Arredondo ignored his superiors and ordered his soldiers to terrorize those who disagreed with him. Arredondo's actions had dramatic repercussions in Texas, Mexico, and the United States. His decision to allow Moses Austin to colonize Texas with Americans would culminate in the defeat of Santa Anna in 1836, but not before Santa Anna had made good use of the lessons in brutality he had learned so well from his mentor.

Bradley Folsom's *Arredondo* is a beautifully written and thoroughly engaging biography of the much-maligned and forgotten Caligula of the northeastern provinces of New Spain. Eschewing facile moral judgments, Folsom provides a complex portrait of the Spanish royalist commander who during the Mexican War of Independence controlled and allegedly terrorized an area that included present-day Texas and Tamaulipas. Beyond Arredondo's notorious cruelty, Folsom highlights the political and social realities that gave rise to the choices men in positions of power, like Arredondo, were forced to make. For anybody interested in Mexican-U.S. borderland history, this book is a must. Will Fowler, author of *Santa Anna of Mexico*