

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Cooperation and Confederacy: A Comparison of Indigenous Confederacies in Relation to Imperial Polities

STUDENT: Dustin J. Mack

DEGREE: Master of Arts

COLLEGE: Science and Humanities

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This study demonstrates the flexible nature of relations between “peripheral” polities imperial “core” polities. The decentralized nature of the Mongol and Iroquois confederacies enabled them to dictate terms during negotiations with the Ming dynasty or British, respectively, giving them a higher degree of agency in their relations. Comparing the experiences of the Mongols and Iroquois provides a better understanding of how indigenous confederacies acted and reacted under similar circumstances. Likewise, this study aims to demonstrate the capacity for “peripheral” confederacies to resist, selectively adapt, and negotiate with “core” empires.