Limiting Resistance

Juan Pardo and the Shrinking of Spanish La Florida, 1566–68

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In May 1568, native peoples of the Carolinas and eastern Tennessee—at towns named Canos (or Cofitachequi), Joara, Guatari, Cauchi, and Chiaha—obliterated a string of Spanish forts that stretched from the Atlantic coast across the Appalachian Mountains. This would seem to be an act of resistance par excellence: indigenous peoples rising together to defeat the world’s most powerful empire (see also Church et al., Chapter 9; Liebmann, Chapter 10; and Murphy et al., Chapter 4). Indeed, never again did Spain attempt to impose its colonial ambition upon the interior of the American Southeast. Yet we suggest that the concept of resistance—along with its regular partner, domination—may obfuscate rather than clarify the events that we seek to understand (Quilter, Chapter 6).

The themes of domination and resistance are fundamental to most theoretical articulations of the colonial experience. For many cases of Spanish and indigenous interactions in the Americas, they provide a solid framework on which to build insightful models of culture change and colonial entanglements. In our paper, we examine Juan Pardo’s expeditions of 1566–68, focusing on relations between this expedition and the native polities of the western Carolina Piedmont and eastern Tennessee. Pardo twice led more than a hundred men into the interior Southeast and built half a dozen small forts. We have identified one of these garrisons, Fort San Juan
or resistance for understanding colonial entanglements, but to illustrate that in cases such as ours these terms may unnecessarily constrain our interpretation of events.

**THE JUAN PARDO EXPEDITIONS, 1566–68**

During the first half of the sixteenth century, Spain launched many failed attempts to claim the American Southeast. Perhaps the most famous (or infamous) of these was Hernando de Soto's, which cut its ravenous swath across the Southeast from 1539 to 1543. But of the more than six hundred soldiers who began the expedition, more than half, including Soto himself, perished in La Florida. Other similarly disastrous ventures include those of Juan Ponce de León (1521), Lucas Vásquez de Ayllón (1526), Pánfilo de Narváez (1528), and Tristán de Luna y Arrellano (1559–60). Although largely forgotten today, these were the first European attempts to explore the American South.

In 1565–66, after his successful expulsion of the French from La Florida, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founded a pair of small colonies on the southern Atlantic coast: St. Augustine, established September 1565 in northern Florida, and Santa Elena, founded April 1566 on Parris Island, South Carolina; the latter was to be the principal site of Menéndez's colonial ambitions (Hoffman 1990; Hudson 1990; Lyon 1976; Paar 1999). When Spain's king, Philip II, received news of these developments, he ordered immediate reinforcement for Menéndez's colony. In July 1566, Captain Juan Pardo, a member of the king's private guard, arrived at Santa Elena with a company of 250 men and quickly began to fortify the settlement. As the Santa Elena colony was ill prepared to feed this contingent of soldiers for very long, Menéndez ordered Pardo to prepare half of his army for an expedition into the interior regions that lay behind the Atlantic coast. His task was to explore the area, claim its lands for Spain while pacifying local Indians, and find an overland route from Santa Elena to silver mines in Zacatecas, Mexico. Pardo left with 125 men on December 1, 1566. Over the following months they would revisit a small part of the path that Hernando de Soto's party had taken across the Carolinas in 1540 (Figure 2.1).

Of the first of Pardo's two expeditions into the interior, we have but a single eyewitness account—a brief and rather inattentive relació written by Pardo himself. This document provides few details about social relations on the Carolina Piedmont during the post-Soto era, other than the names of the places that the expedition visited and how their leaders received Pardo and his men. By combining this document with records of the second expedition, however, it has been possible to reconstruct a basic itinerary for
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Figure 2.1.

Native towns visited by Juan Pardo, 1566–68.

The first (e.g., DePrattet al. 1983; Hudson 1990). After leaving Santa Elena, Pardo and his men went north for a few days across South Carolina’s lightly populated inner coastal plain. The first town of note was called Guiomae, the same name as Soto’s Himahí (Hudson et al. 1984:72; Hudson 1990:34). Two days later, they came to the important town of Canos, where Pardo reported that he “found a great number of caciques and Indians” (Pardo 1990:311). Fortunately, Juan de la Bandera, the expedition’s notary, made two records of the second expedition and noted in the shorter of these that the Indians called this town “Canosi and, for another name, Cofetazque” (1990b:301). Thus, the place named Canos in the Pardo accounts is likely the same as Soto’s Cofitachequi, one of the most powerful polities that Soto encountered east of the Appalachian Mountains (DePratte 1994; Hudson 1997:146–84; Hudson et al. 2008). Here, as at most of the important places that Pardo entered, he told the cacique and his subjects to construct a house for the expedition and to fill it with a quantity of maize for the soldiers’ use.

When Pardo and his men crossed the Carolina Piedmont, it was in ferment and transition. More than two decades earlier, when Soto’s army crossed this ground, Cofitachequi cast a long shadow from its location along the Wateree. During the century prior to Soto’s arrival, this town appears to have precluded the growth of regional polities or chieftdoms in neighboring parts of the piedmont. Indeed, Cofitachequi was the only town where Soto encountered a chief—the famous “lady” or cacica—with any degree of regional, multicomunity authority. But, by the time of Pardo’s arrival, Cofitachequi’s power was on the wane, and as Pardo and his men would soon find, a pair of new polities were starting to coalesce just to its north. The accounts of Pardo’s expeditions thus capture this social landscape at a moment of political instability, a fact that we must remember as we later seek to understand why its native peoples engaged Pardo and his men with the particular actions and strategies they did.

Pardo continued north from Canos through the Wateree-Catawba Valley, pausing at several small villages before arriving at Joara—Soto’s Xualla—situated along a tributary of the upper Catawba River near the base of the Appalachian Mountains. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the upper Catawba River was among the most densely populated regions of the North Carolina Piedmont (Beck and Moore 2002; Moore 2002). More than fifty archaeological sites with Burke phase components (1400–1600) have been identified in this area and range in size from 500 m² to nearly 5 ha. The political center of the Joara chieftdom was the Berry site, located near modern Morganton. Berry is the largest known Burke phase site and one of the only sites in the valley with a platform mound.

Pardo’s command from Menéndez had been to press over the mountains and forge a route to Mexico. At Joara, however, he could see that there was snow on the peaks that lay ahead (Martinez 1990:320), so he halted his westward push through the piedmont region. Pardo was at Joara for fifteen days, writing that its people “demanded Christians from me to catechize them” (Pardo 1990:312). Here, he built a small fort christened Fort San Juan de Joara, leaving it with thirty soldiers under the command of his sergeant, Hernando Moyano; this small outpost was the earliest European colony in the interior of what is now the United States (Beck et al. 2006:66). Our ongoing research at the Berry site, to which we will return, has identified the burned remains of Fort San Juan de Joara flanking the northern periphery of the Berry site (Beck et al. 2006).

The remainder of the army traveled northeast through the upper Catawba Valley, and after passing through an unoccupied region between the Catawba and Yadkin basins, arrived at Guatari, located in the central Yadkin Valley near present-day Salisbury, North Carolina. Pardo (1990:312)
found thirty caciques and many Indians waiting to meet with him at 
Guatari, a clear indication of the town’s prominence in 1567. Pardo stayed 
for just over two weeks, quickly departing for Santa Elena when he learned of 
a possible French military threat to the colony. He left four soldiers and 
a cleric, Father Sebastian Montero, to catechize the Indians, and it was 
here that Montero founded the first mission within the interior of North 
America (Hudson 1990:26).

During the six months that Pardo was at Santa Elena, Moyano, his 
sergeant at Fort San Juan de Joara, became enmeshed in conflicts between 
Joara and its adversaries across the Appalachians (Beck 1997). Francisco 
Martinez, who recorded testimony from four of Pardo’s men at Santa Elena 
in July 1567, stated that Moyano left Fort San Juan on at least two occasions 
(Martinez 1990). On the first of these, he took twenty soldiers and perhaps 
a group of warriors from Joara into southern Virginia, where they attacked 
and destroyed a native village. Afterward, another mountain chief sent 
Moyano a message threatening to eat the Spaniard and his dog (probably 
a large mastiff). Moyano and his soldiers went back into the mountains 
and destroyed this chief’s village too. Martinez’s four informants claimed that 
more than two thousand Indians were killed during the attacks, but this is 
likely an exaggeration. Putting off their return to Joara, Moyano and his 
small company continued on to Chiaha, also known as Olamico, a powerful 
polticaly in eastern Tennessee. At Chiaha, they built a small fort and waited 
for Pardo’s reinforcement.

Pardo left Santa Elena at Menéndez’s command on September 1, 1567, 
taking 120 soldiers. As already noted, this second expedition was accompa- 
nied by an official scribe named Juan de la Bandera who kept two 
detailed accounts of the journey. The longer of these is particularly useful 
because of the data it offers on interpolity relations across the Carolina 
Piedmont. Pardo returned to Canos (or Cofitachequi) on September 10. 
Bandera notes that an impressive group of orata was awaiting the army at 
Canos, and that all of these had helped to build a large house for the 
Spaniards there or else had provided some maize. In the longer of his two 
documents, Bandera carefully distinguishes between the terms mico and 
orata: while the latter apparently refers to village headmen—he recorded 
the names of more than 120 orata during the second expedition—the 
former applied only to those chiefs with regional authority (e.g., Hudson 
1990:63). In fact, Bandera explicitly stated that mico was the term used for 
great lords (un gran señor) and that orata was used for lesser lords (un menor 
señor) (Bandera 1990a:215). He recorded but three micos in the longer 
account: Joara Mico, Guatari Mico, and Olamico (Chiaha).

Thus, there was no mico present at Cofitachequi in 1567, though this 
was the only place in the Carolina Piedmont to which Soto applied the 
term in 1540. Still, Canos remained an important place, given that at least 
three orata met there to receive Pardo; these included the leaders of 
Ylasí, Vehidi, Yssa, and Cataba (Bandera 1990a:260). Ylasí is probably 
the Ylapi of the Soto accounts, where Baltasar de Gallegos employed most of 
Soto’s army to take some maize belonging to the cacica of Cofitachequi. Ylasí 
seems not to have been a subject of Canos in 1567, for while its orata did 
want credit for helping to build the house for the Spaniards there, he kept 
his maize contribution in a house he had built for that purpose in his own 
village (Bandera 1990a:261). Pardo continued north from Canos and visited 
several towns—Tagaya, Gueca, Aracuchi, and Otari—on the lower reaches of 
the Catawba River. Each of these towns was certainly subject to Cofitachequi 
in 1540, though it is unclear whether any remained so in 1567, but each had 
built its own wooden house for Pardo. All of the towns along the Wateree-
Catawba, in fact, built such houses, a point to which we will return.

On September 24, 1567, Pardo arrived at Joara and Fort San Juan, 
where he learned that his sergeant, Moyano, “was gone from the fort…
and that the Indians had him under siege” (Pardo 1990:313–14). Pardo 
and his company left at once for Chiaha, likely crossing the Appalachians 
through the Swannanoa Gap and then into eastern Tennessee via the 
Pigeon River Gap. On October 7, they arrived at Olamico, the main town of 
Chiaha, where they found Moyano and his men “hard pressed” but safe 
(Pardo 1990:314). From Chiaha they continued southwest for three days, but 
at Satapo, Pardo learned of a plot to ambush the expedition and decided to 
turn back. At Olamico, the company built Fort San Pedro, where Pardo left 
twenty-seven men. At Cauchi, west of present-day Asheville, North Carolina, 
they built another fort, San Pablo, garrisoned with eleven men (Bandera 
1990a:278). On November 6, the rest of the army returned to Joara.

While the company rested, no fewer than twenty-five orata and their 
mandadores or principal men came to see Pardo at Joara, a clear consequence 
of the burgeoning status enjoyed by this chieftain and its leader, 
Joara Mico. Some of these leaders had met with Pardo at Cauchi as he was 
returning across the mountains, and Hudson suggests that they may have 
represented Cherokee towns (Hudson 1990:88–89). Some also likely came 
from Burke phase communities on the upper Catawba and nearby Yadkin 
rivers. Bandera does report that five were “caciques of” Joara Mico (Bandera 
1990a:278, italics added), and that their towns likely formed the core of the 
Joara polity (Beck and Moore 2002:201). Finally, just before Pardo left 
Joara, two chiefs called Chara Orata and Adini Orata—though nominally
subjects of Guatari—came to switch their allegiance to Joara. To prevent hostility between Guatari and Joara, Pardo persuaded these men to continue giving their obedience in the place they were accustomed.

Leaving thirty men at Fort San Juan, Pardo and the rest of the expedition departed Joara on November 24 and arrived at Guatari on December 15. As at Cofitaquechi when Soto passed through the Carolinas in 1540, the mico at Guatari was a woman; thus, two of the three micos whom Soto and Pardo met in the Carolinas were women. This is rather extraordinary given the lack of complementary evidence (archaeological or documentary) for women holding these highest seats of political leadership in other southern chieftdoms. In his account of the first expedition, Pardo states that thirty caciques met him at Guatari, the most at any town during the two expeditions. Bandera does not say how many visited during this later occasion, but the number was far less impressive. Pardo told the mico to summon her subjects to help the Spaniards build a fort, and from Bandera’s list of formal gifts that Pardo made that day, it appears that about seven of the subject orata came at the mico’s behest (Bandera 1990a:284). While at first this number seems low, it is close to the number that Bandera describes as “caciques of” Joara Mico.

Pardo completed Fort Santiago at Guatari on January 6, 1568. Leaving a corporal named Lucas de Canizares in command of the fort and its sixteen men, he departed on the following day with the rest of his army and arrived at Canos (or Cofitaquechi) on January 23. Pardo remained at Canos for eighteen days, building another fort called Santo Tomás where he left thirty men (Bandera 1990a:292). Leaving Canos and the Carolina Piedmont, he made a strong house at the coastal-plain village of Orista and then returned to Santa Elena with fewer than a dozen men on March 2, 1568.

Shortly after Pardo’s return to Santa Elena, relations between these garrisons and their indigenous hosts took a calamitous turn. By May, news reached Santa Elena that Indians had attacked all of the forts, including Fort San Juan, and that all were destroyed. Only one soldier, Juan Martín de Badajoz, is known to have escaped from the destruction by walking native trails at night and taking cover during the day. Although it is not known whether all the forts were attacked at the same time—in a strategy similar to the better-known Pueblo Revolt of 1680 (Liebmann, Chapter 10)—it is clear that none remained by June 1568. With this episode, the native peoples of the southern Appalachians emphatically rebuffed Pardo’s attempt to extend Spanish ambitions into their domains, bringing to a tumultuous close Spain’s last effort to claim the northern interior of its La Florida venture.

ENTANGLED AGENTS AND THE CONTEXT OF COLONIAL ACTION

It is easy to conceive these events as native resistance to a Spanish attempt at domination. Indeed, this violent rejection of Spain’s presence offers a gift-wrapped package for such treatment. However, such an approach also perpetuates an insidious assumption that in any colonial interaction it was inevitably the Indians seeking to resist the might of the Europeans, and, moreover, that the arrival of Europeans on the North American continent was inevitably disastrous for all Native Americans. While this claim is certainly true when applied to the macronarrative of the Columbian Exchange, it is less helpful for understanding any particular context of colonial entanglement. Indeed, it may obfuscate variability in the kinds of interactions between native peoples and Europeans in different times and places. In some cases, as in the expeditions of Juan Pardo, the arrival of Europeans played into the hands of native peoples engaged in their own local contexts of competition, alliance, and exchange (Preucel, Chapter 11). An approach based in agency—rather than based on resistance per se—offers a more nuanced understanding of colonial entanglements and allows us to focus on these local contexts of action. We are not suggesting that resistance and agency are contradictory concepts, but rather that framing this particular engagement in terms of agency might better direct our attention to the indigenous perspective, thereby helping us to avoid treating native motivation as mere reaction or response.

Here we adopt a perspective on agency advocated by sociologist William Sewell Jr. (2005). This is not the place to present a fuller explanation of Sewell’s theory (see Beck et al. 2007), but we do need to briefly summarize his approach. At the heart of Sewell’s theory is the concept of structure. Expanding the work of Anthony Giddens, Sewell makes an explicit case that social structures consist of material or actual resources and virtual schemas. Sewell’s schemas, like Giddens’s rules, are “generalizable procedures applied in the enactment/reproduction of social life” (Sewell 2005:131). Schemas are not context dependent (i.e., they are generalizable) and can be transposed to cultural contexts beyond those for which they were originally learned; this makes schemas virtual, as “they can be actualized in a potentially broad and unpredictable range of situations” (Sewell 2005:131). Resources are actual in that any opportunity to mobilize them in social action is fixed to place, time, and quantity (Sewell 2005:133). Resources therefore implicate, as they are recursively implicated by, their associated schemas:
A factory is not an inert pile of bricks, wood, and metal. It incorporates or actualizes schemas, and this means that the schemas can be inferred from the material form of the factory. The factory gate, the punching-in station, the design of the assembly line: all of these features of the factory teach and validate the rules of the capitalist contract. (Sewell 2005:136)

He uses this relationship to define agency as the “capacity to reinterpret and mobilize an array of resources in terms of cultural schemas other than those that initially constituted the array” (2005:142–43). Not only is structural change the outcome of human agency, but agency itself is defined as the capacity to effect structural change.

With Sewell’s perspective in mind, and from the viewpoint of native polities such as Joara, Canos, or Guatari, we may imagine that the Pardo expeditions themselves were an array of resources, one with the potential to be mobilized by indigenous peoples toward a range of political, economic, and military ends. We believe it is especially important to keep in mind that the people of Joara—from Joara Mico down—had no knowledge of what Spain’s colonial machinery had accomplished in other parts of the Americas. They had no reason to fear Juan Pardo and his men as representatives of the greatest empire in the world or to gauge their own actions accordingly. Instead, they understood the Spanish occupation of their town in terms of their own cultural knowledge and experience, their social structures for integrating resources and schemas. Thus, we will only understand the motivations of leaders such as Joara Mico by focusing on the local, indigenous contexts of their political action (see Liebmann, Chapter 10; Preucel, Chapter 11; Sheptak et al., Chapter 8, for the analytical value of situating colonial entanglements within the realm of intra-indigenous politics). We now turn to examine three kinds of interaction between Spanish soldiers and their Indian hosts—labor mobilization, gift exchange, and military support—to see if our approach casts a different light on these entanglements than the concepts of resistance or domination may cast alone.

**Labor Mobilization**

First is the native practice of building houses for the Pardo expedition, which could easily fit within a narrative of Spanish domination, or at least of indigenous acquiescence to Spanish authority. At many of the towns where Pardo stopped during his first expedition, he commanded native inhabitants to build structures, presumably as way stations along his proposed road to Mexico, and to subsequently fill some portion of them with maize. When Pardo retraced his route several months later, Bandera noted that large new houses awaited the company in all of the native towns where Pardo had made such a request, and even in a few where he apparently had not. At the Berry site, the five burned structures associated with Fort San Juan (Figure 2.2) may be typical in size and form of the houses that native leaders at other towns and villages built for the expedition. These five are all quite large by piedmont standards and would clearly have represented an outlay of labor and resources. Many of the buildings also held stores of maize, nominally collected for use by the expedition, but likewise requiring an investment of time and labor.

Pardo and Bandera interpreted the construction of these buildings as evidence of indigenous submission to Spanish authority (cf. Voss, Chapter 12). Pardo indicates as much, writing that when his first expedition came to Canos, “I found a great number of caciques and Indians and I made them the customary speech on behalf of God and His Majesty. They were very content and obedient to the service of God and His Majesty” (1990:311). And when Pardo returned to Canos several months later, Bandera (1990a:260) noted that:
Before now it had been declared and said unto them by the captain how they were to make the house and maize which they had for His Majesty, and that it was suitable for them to turn Christian and be under his dominion...and...now that His Grace saw that they actually fulfill the things stated above, it is necessary that in the presence of me, the notary, they ratify and approve it. They...declared and said that they will be very happy to do that which has been commanded and declared to them by the captain in His Majesty's name and as such, remaining...under the said dominion, they made the "Yaa," which I, the notary, attest.

Later events would emphatically reveal the degree to which both Pardo and Bandera were mistaken about native submission to His Majesty at Canos and other piedmont towns. In fact, for us to use the concept of resistance to explain the Indians' ultimate rejection of the Spaniards is to reify the latter's line of thought. That is, resistance suggests that the act of building one of these houses represents a temporary loss or a ceding of local autonomy to Spanish authority, an acquiescence that was, in the end, rescinded. Instead, we might need to look more broadly at the indigenous political context for these actions.

Canos—better known as Coftachequi—was one of the most important places where Pardo requested that a house be built for the Spaniards. As many as a dozen chiefs from nearby towns met with Pardo while he rested there during his first expedition, and it was expected that all of these orata would assist in building the house at Canos and help fill a portion of it with maize. When Pardo returned here during the second expedition, he met again with most of these leaders, all of whom wanted credit for having done their part in making the house. One of these, Ylasi Orata, wanted credit for helping build the house at Canos but was holding his maize contribution in a house he had built for that purpose in his own town. In 1540, when Soto crossed the same region, Ylasi was subject to Canos (the latter keeping a corncrib there to store its tribute), but by making his own structure and filling it with maize, Ylasi Orata was demonstrating—both to Pardo and to Canos—that he was no longer obligated to pay tribute at another town. We suggest that such a motivation likely applied to other peoples along Pardo's path; specifically, making a house for Pardo's expedition became a means for expressing one's autonomy relative to other indigenous towns and polities, and was more a statement about long-simmering and contested local relations than a temporary bow to Spanish authority.

Beyond the opportunity to demonstrate autonomy with respect to other towns and polities, building a house and providing it with a store of maize also allowed some chiefs to coordinate labor on a regional scale and to show their capacity for such expenditures to other leaders and to the Spaniards. At Guatari, Joara, and Canos, for example, it is clear that labor was drawn from neighboring towns and villages. Bandera again reports that seven orata and their associates came when summoned by Guatari Mico. This capacity was not shared by all of the towns that built houses for the expedition—for example, smaller villages such as Ylasi, Tagaya, Otari, and Aracuchi. Thus the act of building a house for these Spaniards also gave some emerging leaders—especially those such as Joara Mico and Guatari Mico, who seem to have lacked regional stature at the time of the Soto expedition—the opportunity to improve their positions at the multicommunity scale.

**Gift Exchange**

Initially at least, the Pardo expeditions afforded many native leaders an opportunity to acquire exotic European trade goods. Pardo made formal presentations of these goods to the chiefs who came to visit with him and appears to have been particularly generous, not surprisingly, to the leaders of those towns where he garrisoned a fort. Bandera made very meticulous notes about the materials that Pardo presented as gifts, including necklaces of beads (probably glass and brass or copper); small iron chisels, wedges, and knives; pieces of taffeta cloth, silk, and satin; iron axes of various sizes; ball buttons; and small mirrors. During his second expedition, Pardo gave away twenty-nine necklaces, 126 chisels and wedges, thirty-two knives, thirty-five plain or socketed axes, six mirrors, several ball buttons, and many swathes of fabric or textile (Hudson 1990:135–38). These materials were quickly distributed across a wide swatch of the Carolinas and nearby areas, as it is clear from the Pardo accounts that many chiefs traveled large distances, sometimes more than one hundred miles, to meet with Pardo and receive a gift for their efforts. Pardo seems to have taken care to distribute these gifts through proper channels of local authority so that native leaders could use these exotic resources to bolster relations with their subjects and with one another. It is significant in this respect that the detailed lists of supplies that Bandera recorded for each of Pardo's six garrisons included no specific trade materials, a point to which we will return.

Numerous examples of such European trade items, all or most of which are likely associated with the Pardo expeditions, are known from Burke phase contexts. During the late 1880s, Smithsonian archaeologists excavating at several burial mounds in the Happy Valley section of the
Military Support

During the six months between Pardo's first and second expeditions, the Spaniards, under Francisco Martín, moved the men across the mountainous terrain of the Appalachees, where they encountered and defeated the native inhabitants. The Spaniards, under Hernando de Soto, followed the Pardo's route and continued the exploration and conquest of the region.

The Failure of Pardo's Forts

Finally, we would like to consider the destruction of Pardo's forts during the spring of 1568. As we noted at the beginning of this chapter, it is all too easy to interpret the events as the ultimate act of resistance—the violent rejection of Spanish colonial enterprise. Yet, the evidence points to a more complex story. The Spaniards were not content with simply occupying and exploiting the territory. They sought to impose their cultural and religious beliefs on the native populations, a process that often led to conflict and resistance.

The Weakening of Spanish-Native Relations at Joara

Even before the fall of the Spanish occupation at Joara, there were signs of strain developing in the Spanish-Native relations. The Spaniards had already engaged in sporadic conflicts with the native inhabitants, and these tensions were likely exacerbated by the arrival of new settlers and the imposition of Spanish law. The Joara site, which had been a center of native communal life, was now occupied by a Spanish military fort, further complicating the relationship between the two groups.

The Ties of the Upper Yadkin River

The site of Joara, located along the Upper Yadkin River, was a key location in the colonial history of the region. The site was occupied by a large Mississippian mound complex, and it was here that Pardo established his first settlement. The site was later abandoned, and it was not until the 18th century that it was rediscovered and studied by archaeologists. The site provides important insights into the colonial history of the region and the relationships between the Spanish and the native inhabitants.
begun to fray. We have thus far excavated two of the burned buildings associated with the Spanish compound, Structure 1 and Structure 5. As is evident in Figure 2.2, Structure 5 was built atop a mass of large pit features. There are at least six such pits in the area under or immediately around this building, and most of these pits we have excavated contain Spanish artifacts (Beck et al. 2006: table 1). There are no such pit features in the area under or immediately around Structure 1. Looking at the broader scale of the entire compound, these large features are concentrated in the western section with Structures 2 and 5, while the eastern section with Structures 1 and 3 is relatively free of these pits. We believe that Structures 1 and 3 were probably built first, and that the mass of pits in the western section of the compound were dug in association with the construction and use of these first two buildings. Structures 2 and 5 were built later and are thus intrusive into those pits that define this area. Since we believe that all of these buildings were burned at the same time, when the people of Joara burned Fort San Juan, this interpretation of a construction sequence implies that Structure 1 was used for longer than Structure 5, an implication borne out by recent work.

Our excavations in 2007 and 2008, supported by funds from the National Science Foundation, have revealed that Structure 1 had two superimposed hearths located at the center of the building, one associated with its original floor surface and the other associated with the surface in use when the building burned. Structure 5, by contrast, had only one hearth stage and no evidence of multiple floor surfaces. We feel confident suggesting, then, that Structure 1 saw longer use than Structure 5. We should also point out, though, that neither building appears to have been in use for an extended period. Neither exhibits any evidence of rebuilding and neither was rebuilt after being consumed by fire.

A more obvious difference between the buildings is the time expended in the preparation of the structural surfaces and entryways. While Structure 1 (Figure 2.3) exhibited a clearly defined house basin, a pair of deep entrance trenches, and four central support posts—all typical of native-style Mississippian houses in the South Appalachian area—Structure 5 is more ephemeral in comparison, lacking a clearly defined house basin, entrance trenches, or central support posts. In fact, the posts themselves bring up another point of comparison. Many of the wall posts in Structure 5 display an unusual pattern, in that the postholes are quite large in relation to the actual posts. This would undoubtedly have caused problems with stability, and indeed one of these postholes contained a large fragment of wrought iron jammed between the edge of the post and its posthole as a possible Shim (Figure 2.4). In Structure 1, however, all of the posts were rammed into place. We believe that the postholes of Structure 5 were dug with metal tools, perhaps with the shovels we know that Pardo left for his soldiers at Fort San Juan.

What can these architectural details tell us about relations between Spaniards and Indians at Fort San Juan? Here we will offer some preliminary observations. Structure 1 was built in a manner typical of Mississippian buildings in our study area. This in no way contradicts our interpretation of the building as a house for Pardo’s soldiers because the Pardo documents evince that Late Mississippian people built such structures for the expedition at many towns in the Carolina Piedmont, including Joara. Structure 5 is an interesting comparison, in that it seems to be much more of an expedient construction. If Structure 1 were built at the beginning of the Spanish occupation of Joara—during the first winter—then both its style and the techniques of its construction indicate a high degree of cooperation.
clear that none remained by June 1568 (Hudson 1990:176). Several factors appear to have played a role in the Indians’ decision to destroy the forts, but two stand out: Spanish demands for food and the soldiers’ improprieties with native women. With respect to the provisioning of Pardo’s forts, there was probably a great deal of miscommunication between Spaniards and Indians about the presentation of food. By the spring of 1568, the soldiers at the forts may have had few trade goods left to offer in exchange for maize and the other foodstuffs they received from their native hosts. From the Spaniards’ perspective, this was fair and just, as the Indians of the Carolina Piedmont were now their subjects, having formally made the “Yaa,” and they therefore owed the Spanish Crown—and the men who served as its military stand-ins—continued sustenance as tax or tribute. And yet from the indigenous perspective, the soldiers were no longer fulfilling their part of an exchange relationship, such that they owed the Spaniards nothing (e.g., Mallios 2006).

Sexual politics seem to have played a significant role in the forts’ destruction. At the town of Guatari, for example, Bandera (1990a:285) recorded that “the captain commanded him [the corporal placed in charge of Fort Santiago] in the name of His Majesty...that no one should dare bring any woman into the fort at night and that he should not depart from the command under pain of being severely punished.” However, Teresa Martín, a native woman taken to Santa Elena on Pardo’s second expedition and wife of Juan Martín de Badajoz (believed to be the only survivor of the attack on the forts), testified to Governor Cançó in 1600 that the men waited “three of four moons” for Pardo to return to the interior, and that when he had failed to do so they began to commit improprieties with native women, angering their men (Hudson 1990:176). We recognize that there are many ways to interpret these “improprieties” and acknowledge that sexual violence may have played a role in the ultimate destruction of Pardo’s forts. But we should not generalize all such relationships without better documentary support. During the early 1700s, for example, indigenous women across the piedmont actively sought and maintained sexual relations with English traders, and we see no reason to assume that native women lacked such agency during the occupation of Fort San Juan. In fact, Indian women from the interior later married two of Pardo’s soldiers. So while it is possible that sexual violence occurred at Joara, we have no direct historical evidence for it and some good reasons for believing that native–Spanish sexual relations here were more complex than this. As with other aspects of the entanglement, we must situate sex in its appropriate social-historical context.

The Destruction of Fort San Juan

By late May 1568, news arrived at Santa Elena that Indians had attacked all the interior forts, and that all had fallen. It is unclear whether every fort was surprised at the same time, in an action prefiguring the better-known Pueblo Revolt of 1680 (see Liebmann, Chapter 10), but it is

**Figure 5.4.**
Possible wrought iron shin in posthole, Structure 5.
In any event, 130 soldiers and all six of the forts were lost, and with them Spain’s only attempt to colonize the deep interior of northern La Florida. Indeed, the destruction of Pardo’s forts precipitated the shrinking of Spain’s claims in the American Southeast. Virginia, known as Ajacán, was abandoned in 1571 after a brief, disastrous mission attempt. Santa Elena, too, was finally abandoned in 1587, after which time Spain’s territorial holdings in the Southeast were largely limited to modern-day Florida. Even so, no Europeans penetrated as far into the southern interior as Soto and Pardo until the second half of the seventeenth century.

The failure of Fort San Juan also may have changed the native political landscape more durably than we might expect, given the brief span of its occupation. At Berry, much of the mound’s construction may have postdated the burning of the fort. Evidence from David Moore’s 1986 excavations offers intriguing support for this possibility. Two fragments of olive jars and one piece of lead sprue were recovered from a partially intact humus zone overlaying moundfill on the south margin of the mound. During the time that the zone was forming, this part of the mound was only about 1 m high (Moore 2002:220, Figure 2.3), suggesting a low earthen feature similar to those that Cyrus Thomas described in Caldwell County in his reports on the Smithsonian’s Yadkin River fieldwork. If so, then most of the mound’s volume was added after the humus zone formed—and thus after these olive jar sherds and lead sprue were deposited—as we know that the Berry mound eventually attained a height of at least 4 m (Thomas 1891:151). While careful stratigraphic analysis is needed to resolve the temporal context of the mound, it is possible that the people of Joara used the destruction of Fort San Juan to consolidate political authority in the upper Catawba and neighboring regions, a triumph they celebrated in the expansion of their mound into a true platform.

If we may assume then that the Spaniards had already worn out their welcome by sometime in the spring of 1568, and that the material resources they demanded from Joarans (namely food and native women) were no longer matched by the resources they offered in return, then Joara Mico may have used his attack as a demonstration of strength—not to the Spaniards, of course, but to his neighbors. Platform mounds are quite uncommon here, and it may only have been in the aftermath of the fort’s destruction that Joara Mico earned the political capital to sponsor such a monument’s enlargement. Documents from the Pardo expeditions suggest that Joara Mico was actively trying to consolidate or expand his authority at the time of the expeditions, and we believe that the destruction of Fort San Juan may have offered him an opportunity to do so.

CONCLUSION

In summary, we find the concepts of domination and resistance too restrictive for the context of the Juan Pardo expeditions. We do not doubt that there are many parts of the Americas where these terms provide a solid foundation for understanding indigenous interactions with Spain. However, it may be the case that these concepts fare less well in areas where Spain fared less well, in areas where the duration of the entanglement was relatively brief and where Spain failed to establish a long-term institutional presence. Rather, we have tried to show how native polities of the Carolina Piedmont mobilized resources of the Pardo expeditions—human and non-human alike—for their own political, economic, and military ends. This approach turns our focus away from mere reaction and onto the native context of motivated action or agency.
Enduring Conquests
Rethinking the Archaeology of Resistance to Spanish Colonialism in the Americas

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