

**A History of Native CA Lunch Series**  
**Ch. 3: “Our Country before the Fernandino Arrived Was a Forest”: Native Towns and Spanish Missions in Colonial California**  
**February 20, 2026**  
**Takeaways and Resources**

**The following resource(s) were shared during the webinar:**

- [Register](#) for the next lunch session on March 20: Chapter 4: Working the Land: Entrepreneurial Indians and the Markets of Power, 1811-1849.
- You can read about the transfer to the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians by the Presbytery of San Gabriel here: <https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2025-08-19/l-a-tribe-wins-first-land-back-for-the-first-time>
  - And here: <https://www.gabrieleno-nsn.us/events>
- Read about the return of ancestral lands to the Lac du Flambeau Band of Chippewa here: <https://19thnews.org/2025/11/catholic-sisters-land-reparation-tribal-nation/>
  - Read about Land Justice Futures and explore their resources: <https://www.landjusticefutures.org/>
- Read more about how Indigenous histories are embedded in K-12 curriculum in California
  - Under AB 1821 (Ramos 2023-2024) requires schools to teach about the mistreatment and perspectives of Native Californians in social studies classes. [Native American history: New law changes what students learn - CalMatters](#)
  - [The California Native American Studies Model Curriculum](#)
  - [Native American Studies Model Curriculum: Units and Lessons by Grade Span | We Are California](#)

**Selected resources relating to this chapter for additional reading:**

- [UC teams with Indigenous scholars to recast history of the California missions | UCLA](#)  
*Converting California: Indians and Franciscans in the Missions* by James Sandos (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004).
- *Children of Coyote, Missionaries of Saint Francis: Indian-Spanish Relations in Colonial California* by Steven Hackel (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005).
- Benjamin Madley, “California’s First Mass Incarceration System: Franciscan Missions, California Indians and Penal Servitude, 1769-1836,” in *Pacific Historical Review* 88, no. 1 (2019).

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- *Constructing Lives at Mission San Francisco: Native Californians and Hispanic Colonists, 1776-1821* by Quincy Newell (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2009).
- *The Missions of California: A Legacy of Genocide* by Rupert Costo and Jeanette Costo (San Francisco: Indian Historian Press, 1987).
- *Traders and Raiders: The Indigenous World of the Colorado Basin, 1540-1859* by Natale Zappia (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014).
- [Toypurina | Book by Cheyenne M. Stone, Glenda Armand, Katie Dorame | Official Publisher Page | Simon & Schuster](#)