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FEAR AND THE FRONTIER: THE ROLE OF TERROR IN TERRITORY DEFENSE AND IDENTITY DEFINITION IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD

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Fear and the Frontier: The Role of Terror in Territory Defense and Identity Definition in the Colonial Period

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ABSTRACT

Focusing on the period of the late 17th century, this project examines the integral role of fear in war strategy of both Native Americans and Europeans. We propose that terrorism was used not just for purposes of warfare but also for the politically motivated purposes of solidifying identity in the Colonial period. This project further proposes that this political purpose has been largely treated as secondary in scholarly work on Native American warfare and seeks to reduce the establishment of fundamental differences in the military history of fear and warfare while offering a unique examination of Powhatan and Colonist activities. An important aspect of this project will also be examining the othering of Native American war strategies that ignores their political histories and exoticizes them by focusing solely on the differences in their warfare strategies from European strategies of the period. By examining not just the differences in Native American and European war strategies but rather the parallels and similarities, we hope to contribute to scholarly work that more fully analyzes the role of fear in warfare strategy and establishing identity during times of war and state formation by aggressively identifying one group as other.

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