List of Illustrations | **vii**

List of Tables | **xi**

Acknowledgments | **xiii**

Introduction | **1**

1. Historical Background: Indian Access to Colonial Justice in the Sixteenth Century | 11

Justice in Ancient Mesoamerica | **12**

Justice for the Indian Population: From Conquest to the Beginning of the Viceroyalty | **16**

Viceroy Antonio de Mendoza and Indian Justice | **33**

Viceroy Luis de Velasco and Indian Justice | **38**

Augustín Pinto: A Sixteenth-Century *Procurador* | **48**

The Indian Justice System at the End of the Sixteenth Century | **61**

Notes | **69**

2. Indigenous Negotiation to Preserve Land, History, Titles, and Maps: Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries | 79

Historical Setting | 79

The Policy of *Congregación* | 91

The Policy of *Composición* | 96

Recounting History as a Means of Defending Land | 103

Retelling the Past among Indian Pueblos | 109

Recalling the Past and Local Indigenous Power | 114

Traditional Indigenous Titles and Maps in the Context of the Sacred | 132

Notes | 138

3. Indigenous Negotiation to Preserve Land, History, Titles, and Maps: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries | 151

Indian Pueblos and Independence: General Considerations | 151

Indian Pueblos during the First Half of the Nineteenth Century | 156

Indian Pueblos, Land, and Titles from the Reform Laws Onward | 166

Land, Indians, and Titles after the Revolution | 184

Notes | 200

4. Defending Land: Indian Pueblos' Contemporary Quest for the Origins of Local Community History | 211

Pueblos That Hold Primordial Titles: Present-Day Cases | 211

A Nahua Pueblo and Its Titles | 218

Santa María Cuquila, Oaxaca: Politics and Local History in a Mixtec Community | 237

A Snapshot of Local History | 239

Land and Primordial Titles | 254

The Past in the Present in Santa María Cuquila | 266

Notes | 274

Conclusion | 283

Maps | 293

List of Libraries and Archives Consulted | 303

List of Significant Towns Mentioned in the Book | 305

Bibliography | 309

Index | 325