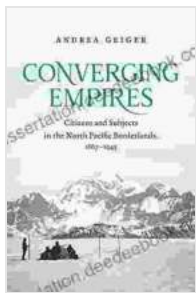


# Citizens and Subjects in the North Pacific Borderlands, 1867-1945: The David and Charles Poole Case

The North Pacific borderlands, a vast and contested region that encompasses the waters and islands of the North Pacific Ocean, has long been a crossroads of cultures and empires. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, this region was a contested space between the United States, Russia, and Great Britain. As a result, the legal status of individuals in the North Pacific borderlands was often unclear, and the boundaries between citizenship and subjectivity were fluid.



## Converging Empires: Citizens and Subjects in the North Pacific Borderlands, 1867–1945 (The David J. Weber Series in the New Borderlands History) by Boria Sax

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 20433 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 361 pages



The case of David and Charles Poole, two British subjects who were arrested and tried in the United States for murder, provides a unique lens through which to explore the complex legal and political issues that arose in this region. The Poole case highlights the need for a more nuanced

understanding of citizenship and subjectivity in the North Pacific borderlands, and challenges the traditional narratives of national belonging and exclusion that have shaped our understanding of this period.

## **The David and Charles Poole Case**

In 1885, David and Charles Poole, two British subjects, were arrested in the United States for the murder of an American whaling captain. The Pooles were tried in a federal court in San Francisco, and were convicted of murder. They were sentenced to death, but their sentences were later commuted to life in prison.

The Poole case raised a number of complex legal and political issues. The first issue was the question of jurisdiction. The United States claimed jurisdiction over the case because the murder had occurred on an American whaling ship in the North Pacific Ocean. The British government, however, argued that the United States did not have jurisdiction over British subjects in the North Pacific borderlands.

The second issue was the question of citizenship. The Pooles were British subjects, but they had been living in the United States for a number of years. The United States argued that the Pooles were American citizens, and that they were therefore subject to American law. The British government, however, argued that the Pooles were British subjects, and that they were not subject to American law.

The third issue was the question of subjectivity. The Pooles were British subjects, but they had adopted American customs and ways of life. The United States argued that the Pooles were Americans in all but name, and that they should be treated as such. The British government, however,

argued that the Pooles were British subjects, and that they should be treated as such.

The Poole case was eventually resolved through a diplomatic agreement between the United States and Great Britain. The United States agreed to release the Pooles from prison, and the British government agreed to pay the United States a sum of money as compensation for the murder of the American whaling captain.

### **Citizenship and Subjectivity in the North Pacific Borderlands**

The David and Charles Poole case highlights the complex legal and political issues that arose in the North Pacific borderlands during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The case also challenges the traditional narratives of national belonging and exclusion that have shaped our understanding of this period.

The traditional narrative of national belonging in the North Pacific borderlands is one of exclusion. This narrative tells the story of how the United States, Russia, and Great Britain competed for control of the region, and how they used their power to exclude each other's citizens and subjects from the region. The Poole case, however, complicates this narrative by showing that the boundaries between citizenship and subjectivity in the North Pacific borderlands were often fluid.

The Pooles were British subjects, but they had been living in the United States for a number of years. They had adopted American customs and ways of life, and they had even become American citizens. However, the United States government did not recognize the Pooles' American citizenship, and they were arrested and tried as British subjects. This

shows that the boundaries between citizenship and subjectivity in the North Pacific borderlands were often fluid, and that individuals could be both citizens and subjects of different countries at the same time.

The Poole case also shows that the traditional narratives of national belonging and exclusion in the North Pacific borderlands are based on a narrow understanding of citizenship. Citizenship is often understood as a legal status that is granted by a state to its citizens. However, the Poole case shows that citizenship is more than just a legal status. It is also a social and cultural construct that is shaped by the experiences and interactions of individuals.

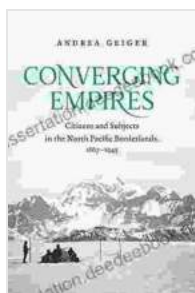
The Pooles were British subjects, but they had become Americanized through their experiences in the United States. They had adopted American customs and ways of life, and they had even become American citizens. However, the United States government did not recognize the Pooles' American citizenship, and they were arrested and tried as British subjects. This shows that citizenship is not just a legal status, but also a social and cultural construct that is shaped by the experiences and interactions of individuals.

The David and Charles Poole case is a complex and fascinating story that sheds light on the legal and political issues that arose in the North Pacific borderlands during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The case also challenges the traditional narratives of national belonging and exclusion that have shaped our understanding of this period.

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individuals could be both citizens and subjects of different countries at the same time. The case also shows that citizenship is not just a legal status, but also a social and cultural construct that is shaped by the experiences and interactions of individuals.

The Poole case is a reminder that the history of the North Pacific borderlands is a complex and contested one. It is a history that is shaped by the interactions of different cultures and empires, and by the experiences and interactions of individuals. The Poole case is a valuable addition to this history, and it provides a unique lens through which to explore the complex legal and political issues that arose in the North Pacific borderlands during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



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