

SPACEPORTS OF THE SPANISH WEST

From Spanish Land Grant Ranches to Rocket Ship Travel

By Thomas L. Matula, Ph.D. and Robert Tidwell, Ph.D.

Introduction by Cynthia Buchanan, M.A.

Book cover / infographic

Description narrative

**“Politics without history has no root;
history without politics bears no fruit.”**

(Emil Ludwig, 1942)

A generation to settle a solar system relies on rocket launch sites on Earth, with its geo-politics. Co-authors of this unique book in progress, our commitment to stories that entwine with the Space Age is evident in our bios. We designed the cover to support our on-going investment in this narrative history of spaceports.

Whether spaceflight is a commercial enterprise, government-driven or for military and defense, education is the matrix. Our book aims to grow “thought leaders” for a High Frontier. These “infinite players” rely on critical thinking, not on calculative thinking alone but on meditative thinking which only human beings are capable of mastering. Discovery requires vision based on imagination Einstein wisely knew and said so.

The Spanish West has always been about big dreams. In our assessment of these commercial spaceports, we establish how many are the states that invest in the future of space travel and space settlement. These terrestrial efforts aspire to a “spaceport economy.” Its educational venues that involve rocket trip dreams and space tourism are never without *civitas* and tax-based politics.

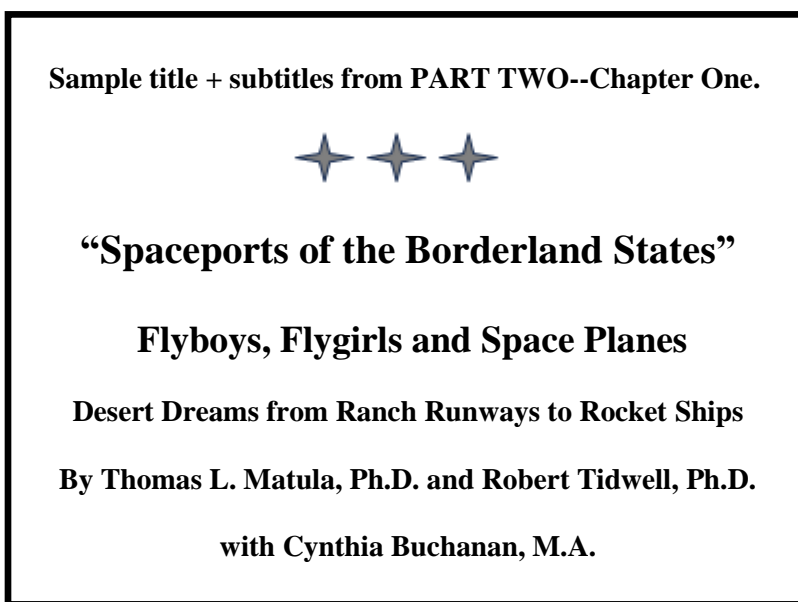
As academics and writers, we’re inspired by what history considers to be “the Spanish genius,” this ether, this heritage, these landscapes. That patrimony of Hispanic culture gave rise to an epic ranching industry over the centuries. Land it left behind became the home to spaceports.

We invite you to imagine a conquistador confronted by the unpeopled deserts--“El Despoblado.” Perhaps you, too, will conjure up Spaceport America or any of the rocket launch sites scattered across the 21st century Spanish West. A Mexican proverb says when you walk among honey, some will stick to you. “*El que anda entra la miel algo se le pega.*” If you help us publish our book you get a lot of bang for your buck.

PART ONE is finished: “Rebooting Spaceport America.” Read it for free right now on my website <http://www.thomasmatula.com>. Enjoy!

PART TWO in the first draft of Chapter One will be ready to post online or elsewhere in March 2024. Subsequent chapters are in outline and even polished detailed segments developed since 2023.

PART THREE with its chapters will be perhaps posted here in 2024.



Business Plan highlights for **book in progress** SPACEPORTS OF THE SPANISH WEST.

Mission statement and investment goals include marketing strategies to offer educational curriculum:

- A.) Aerospace Studies / Air Force ROTC curriculum**
- B.) S.T.E.A.M. Education (Humanities, Social Studies, History, Leadership)**
- C.) Higher education coursework, book in progress excerpts as articles with curriculum.**
- D.) Speaking engagements or Zoom lectures, interviews possible by Matula or Tidwell.**

Sales promotion before submission to publishers.

In advance, the manuscript will be vetted and peer reviewed, then submitted simultaneously to the following publishers--“taken wide,” as they say in publishing.

- Texas Tech University Press – Lubbock, Texas
- University of New Mexico Press – Albuquerque, New Mexico
- University of California Press – Los Angeles, California
- University of Arizona Press – Tucson, Arizona
- University of Nevada Press – Reno, Nevada
- University of Utah Press – Salt Lake City, Utah
- University of Oklahoma Press – Norman, Oklahoma
- University Press of Colorado – Louisville, Colorado
- New York publishers and/or regional presses

Author bios

THOMAS L. MATULA, Ph.D.

Thomas L. Matula, Ph.D., is a Professor of Business Administration at Sul Ross State University in Texas. He holds an MBA and Ph.D. in Business Administration from New Mexico State University. His dissertation topic was Commercial Spaceports, based on his work with Southwest Regional Spaceport. He has been writing, publishing, and speaking on space economics and development since the 1990s. His book in-progress *Spaceports of the Spanish West* is co-authored with Robert Tidwell, Ph.D. An excerpt by Dr. Matula was published in February 2024 at Space Review.com as “From Southwest Regional Spaceport to Spaceport America” at <https://thespacereview.com/article/4744/1>. His other article “SpaceX Starship in Lunar Development” from his book-in-progress *Astrosettlement: Pioneering the Solar System* appeared in Space Review.com in December 2023 at <https://thespacereview.com/article/4711/1>. A board member of Space Renaissance, International, he may be reached at profmatula@gmail.com.

ROBERT TIDWELL, Ph.D.

Currently a museum curator Robert Tidwell is Interim Helen DeVitt Jones Endowed Director of Collections, Exhibits and Research at The National Ranching Heritage Center at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Born in San Antonio, Texas “Military City” he has been a military aviation enthusiast since boyhood and a self-proclaimed “space geek” ever since, as well. He is a guitarist, a film buff and a specialist in the history of the Royal Air Force and the culture of Great Britain. At Texas Tech University he earned a B.A. in Political Science, an M.S. in Museum Science, and a Ph.D. in History. He has been curator at Silent Wings Museum at South Plains Army Airfield, the single largest combat glide pilot training facility in the United States. Tidwell reminds researchers that the Space Shuttle is a glider. During the Shuttle era Spain provided launch abort sites as part of the U.S.-Spain Defense Pact at naval and air bases. Tidwell lives not far from where conquistador Francisco de Coronado camped on the Texas Plains in 1541 and left horseshoes and other artifacts behind that were discovered in 1992. He may be reached at robert.w.tidwell@ttu.edu.

CYNTHIA BUCHANAN, M.A.

Author, playwright, editor and literary consultant, Cynthia Buchanan holds an M.A. in Creative Writing from University of the Americas in Mexico. She was awarded a Fulbright grant in Creative Writing under the U.S. State Department to go to Spain. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Washington Post*, *Air Power History* and *Cowboys & Indians*, to name but a few publications. Her comic novel *Maiden*, considered a classic of postmodern American Literature, was taught at Harvard, Dartmouth and UCLA and sold to Columbia Pictures. She has been a speaker at the Harvard/Radcliffe Publishing Procedures course and has taught writing at Texas universities. Buchanan has finished three new novels *The Scarlet Spaniard*, *Jarama Valley Red*, and *Cowgirl Polygamy* and has a memoir in progress *Bathing in Flames with Gottlieb and Gaddis* about New York publishing. Buchanan’s graphic novel prototype *Aztec Eagles of World War II: Mexico’s Heroes, America’s Brothers*, taught as curriculum at the Air Force Academy and Naval Academy, is at www.azteceagles.net, www.bit.ly/legionpodcast, www.bit.ly/azteceagles or www.bit.ly/fictionforce, <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com>.