

during most of Haiti's history have prevented the Republic from developing a decent standard of living for the peasant farmers.

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Las ciudades confederadas del Valle del Cauca en 1811. [Academia Colombiana de Historia, Biblioteca de Historia Nacional, Vol. LXVI.] (Bogotá: Editorial Librería Voluntad, S. A., 1943. Pp. xiv, 235. Five documentary facsimiles.)

Comentario al libro Las ciudades confederadas del Valle del Cauca en 1811 publicado por la Academia Colombiana de Historia como volumen LXVI de la Biblioteca de Historia Nacional. By ALFONSO ZAWADSKY C. (Bogotá: Editorial Librería Voluntad, S. A., 1943. Pp. 79.)

The revolution for independence in the Viceroyalty of New Granada foreshadowed the strong spirit of regional initiative which is a major theme of Colombian national history. Unlike certain other areas of the Spanish Empire, where the capital cities formulated revolutionary programs and then imposed them on the provinces, New Granada saw the simultaneous development of the revolution in widely scattered centers. Far from dominating the remainder of the country, Bogotá was able to assume a sufficient measure of leadership to organize the revolution only after much confusion had proved such leadership necessary.

Cartagena, as is well known, led the rest of New Granada in declaring absolute independence from Spain. Less celebrated is the revolutionary initiative in the cities of the upper Cauca Valley, with which the two volumes here under review are concerned. The Cabildo of Cali, in fact, led the Granadian communities in taking the first revolutionary step—the declaration of creole autonomy within the Empire. This event occurred on July 3, 1810, seventeen days before the similar action in Bogotá. But Cali faced a dangerous rival in the city of Popayán, farther to the south in the Cauca Valley, which became a center of royalist reaction under Governor Miguel Tacón y Rosique. To defend themselves against this astute and ambitious Spaniard, the creoles of the cities of Buga, Cartago, Caloto, Toro, and Santa Ana allied themselves with the Cali revolutionists to form a "Junta Superior de Gobierno de las Ciudades Amigas del Valle del Cauca" on February 1, 1811. Until danger was temporarily removed through the defeat of Tacón at Bajo Palacé later in the year, the

“Ciudades Amigas” worked closely together and with the Supreme Junta in Bogotá in defense of their movement.

The volume first listed above presents for the first time in published form the documents in the manuscript “Libro en que constan los acuerdos de la Junta Superior de Gob.^{no} de las ciudades amigas del Valle de Cauca.” After many vicissitudes in private collections, this volume of original records was presented to the Municipality of Cali by the Colombian scholar Dr. Laureano García Ortiz, on condition that it be published. Not only was this condition never fulfilled, but the manuscripts themselves, in the words of their donor, were found “extraviados por largo tiempo de su legítimo destino, con el claro propósito de ocultar su origen y de aprovecharlos para trabajos personales.” Fortunately a copy had been made in the meanwhile by the Cali scholar, Father Alfonso Zawadsky. It was this copy, rather than the original documents, which was used by the Academia Colombiana de Historia in preparing the present edition. Included in the volume are the *actas* of the Junta Superior in Cali, correspondence among the “Ciudades Amigas” and with Popayán and Bogotá, and certain communications of the Spanish Cortes and Regency, as proclaimed by Governor Tacón. These documents illustrate in considerable detail the struggle in the Cauca Valley in the first half of the year 1811.

The second volume here under review is ostensibly a commentary on the documents just described. In reality, however, it is a broad, interpretive essay on the movement for independence in the Cauca. Father Zawadsky cites concrete incidents in support of his thesis that sharp rivalry between creoles and Peninsulars had existed in the governments and clerical communities of the Cauca cities for well over half a century before 1811. He believes that there was a well-defined revolutionary surge from south to north, from Quito into the upper Cauca, with Cali playing a major role. The latter part of the work tells in some detail the story of the union of Cali and the neighboring cities in common cause against Popayán. Father Zawadsky has drawn upon sources other than those mentioned above in preparing this modestly named *Comentario*.

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