

The last six chapters (under the general title of "Civitas Maxima") are devoted to Solórzano's international concepts based on a purely nationalist position. This section may prove for most readers the most interesting part of the book because it is the part most closely related to Spanish policy in the Indies. The intellectual development of Solórzano was strongly influenced by medieval ideas, but it is in the field of international politics that this influence presents itself most vividly.

These international concepts are based on the revival of the theory of the pope's temporal and spiritual dominion of the world. This theory is cleverly woven in with that of the right of Spain to expand temporally and spiritually overseas. As the spokesman of political theorists of his day, Solórzano through these theories defends the Spanish empire as a system fast being lost through the growth of nationalism in other European states. He reasons in this way that the other European states have no right to Spain's empire overseas or even to the oceans that protect that empire.

Although Ayala frequently repeats himself and is not always clear (a failing due perhaps to the complex subject-matter he has courageously undertaken to explain) his book will help us to understand more readily the theoretical bases of the right of Spain to its empire in the new world.

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*Real Compañía de Guardias Marinas y Colegio Naval. Catálogo de pruebas de caballeros aspirantes.* Vol. III. Edited by DALMIRO DE LA VÁLGOMA and BARÓN DE FINESTRAT. [Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Instituto Histórico de Marina.] (Madrid: Gráficas Ultra, S. A., 1945. Plates and illustrations. Pp. 534. Paper.)

As the title indicates, this is the third volume of a set in which are the names and genealogies of midshipmen in the Royal Spanish Navy. At first glance the book seems to reveal only the immense labors of men preoccupied with family trees, but a more careful consideration of the work will demonstrate its practical utility for the student of history.

The reviewer amused himself by trying to derive useful historical generalizations from a study of the one thousand individuals listed. Here are a few results of this attempt. About 9 per cent of the midshipmen were *criollos*, and in a few instances *criollos* of the second and third generation. Cuba, the Plata, and Chile are most frequently cited as their places of birth. The average age of the midshipmen at time of entry into the service was about fifteen years. By grouping the classes into decades and totalling the numbers of classes for each decade

(class averages were found to be misleading) one notes a constant falling off in the numbers of midshipmen during the years covered in the volume (1776-1811). For the decade 1781-90 the number of midshipmen was 330; for 1791-1800, 289; for 1801-1810, 159. By way of contrast with the 1801-1810 decade with its 159, the five years, 1776-1780 show 220 midshipmen. There were but two members of the 1811 class.

A plentiful sprinkling of Italian and Irish names are found in the lists. Number 2,665 is a case in point. Midshipman Esteban Hickey y Bushe, b. Madrid, 1777, class of 1794, was the son of José Hickey, Vallidorle [*sic*], Ireland, 1731, and Ana Bushe, Waterford, Ireland, 1756. The father was born of Santiago Hickey and Juana Mores, both of Vallidorle [*sic*]; the mother of Juan José Bushe, Kilkenny [*sic*], and Brigida Pouber, Waterford [*sic*].

Two of the midshipmen played parts on opposite sides of the struggle in the Wars of Independence period. Their names, not well enough known in our Hispanic-American history texts, are Ángel Laborde y Navarro, b. Cádiz, 1773, class of 1791, and Manuel Blanco y [Calvo] Encalada, b. Buenos Aires, 1792, class of 1807. Laborde had the bad luck to lose for Spain the great naval battle of Maracaibo; Blanco Encalada, a patriot, won sea power for the *chilenos* before Lord Cochrane appeared on the scene. Incidentally, Blanco Encalada's father was a *criollo*; his mother was a second-generation *criolla*.

The volume contains numerous examples of heraldic devices (in black and white), as well as the four genealogies bearing on the family background of Don Luis Suazo Mondragón y Ximénez de Cisneros (pp. 7-9), the elaborate genealogical chart of the Vernacci of Florence (pp. 123-4), and the decorative family tree of the Jordáns of Genoa (p. 181) (these last in colors).

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*La puebla de Bolívar.* By ANDRÉS PONTE. [Publicaciones de la Comisión Preparatoria de la IV Asamblea General del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia.] (Caracas: Editorial Crisol, 1946. Pp. 217. Paper.)

This is a book on the Basques, inspired by the author's interest in Simón Bolívar, "the most illustrious representative of his race." The Vascongados called their country *Euskalerría*. The author describes it from nearly every angle including geography, geology, orography, and meteorology; and its people are portrayed from the viewpoint of race, religion, history, government, and psychology. Each province, on both sides of the Pyrenees, and each subdivision, village, and community is described with statistical tables and encyclopedic data.