

The second work deals with a field already quite well covered, namely that of the Dominicans and their excellent work in the Caribbean and in New Spain. The stress is especially on Fathers Montesinos and Las Casas; and the work is, to a large extent, based upon the latter's writings. The influence of the Dominicans in the framing of the New Laws is adequately demonstrated. The excellent works of Hanke, Simpson, and Zavala, however, are not used, and no index is provided.

Father Bayle's work is much more substantial and is an excellent little monograph. It surveys, especially in the sixteenth-century Spanish colonies, the protectors of the Indians. The need for protectors is illustrated by the citation of documents from many parts of the Spanish Empire in America showing mistreatment of the Indians by the Spanish officials and *encomenderos*. The author shows the relationship of the protectors to the other component parts of the Spanish administration. As for their powers, Father Bayle suggests that they could inform themselves of conditions by *visitas* and then attempt to have bad conditions remedied. In the final chapter the usefulness of the protectors is assessed. Complaints against them are listed from various places in the Indies, but the author reminds us that one must consider the influence of the protectors on the improvement of the laws, the rapacity of some Spaniards, and finally that in dealing with the protectors one is working with an institution, not just one man.

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El régimen de la tierra en la América Española durante el período colonial.

By JOSÉ M. OTS CAPDEQUÍ. [Publicaciones de la Universidad de Santo Domingo, Vol. XLIII.] (Ciudad Trujillo: Editora Montalvo, 1946. Pp. 176. Paper.)

This volume contains the twelve semi-popular lectures on the subject delivered at the University of Santo Domingo by the distinguished Spanish legal historian, José María Ots Capdequí, in 1944. The lectures summarize the legal history of land tenure during the colonial régime. They do not contain and, indeed, do not pretend to contain, new materials or interpretations. On the other hand, they pack into a small but readable volume the main trends of Spanish theory and legislation, with the necessary qualifications regarding practice. They are a useful review of the subject.

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