

Kleine Geschichte Südamerikas. Frankfurt am Main, 1955. Verlag Heinrich Scheffler. Pp. 164.

Política colonial. By JOSE MARIA CORDERO TORRES. Prologue by ALBERTO MARTIN ARTAJO. Madrid, 1953. Ediciones Cultura Hispánica. Pp. 800. Paper.

In writing this somewhat diffuse and windy book the author had one eye on the general reader and another on the textbook needs of students of the Faculty of Political and Economic Sciences of the University of Madrid. With incessant references to learned authorities, Cordero Torres outlines the varying characteristics of colonial empires and the varying problems of formulating colonial policy. He considers the major colonial powers but focuses upon modern Spain and, in his brief historical background, upon Spain's colonization of America. The fact that the book was favored with a prologue by the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs suggests certain of its orientations.

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BACKGROUND

Indian Corn in Old America. By PAUL WEATHERWAX. New York, 1954. Macmillan. Illustrations. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 253. \$7.50.

This handsome volume, well-written and well-illustrated, is a semi-popular account of the aboriginal significance of maize among the native farmers of America. Quotations from early chroniclers are given about varieties, distributions, and uses of the maize plant, and a valuable summary of native planting and processing techniques is included. The complex history of the origin of maize, which has not been completely solved, occupies fully half the book. Most illuminating is the discussion of the botanical interrelationships of the various kinds of corn, as well as their kinship to *teosinte* and certain other grasses. Culture historians will find this work a convenient and attractive summary of information

about the most important crop plant of aboriginal America.

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El monte: Notas sobre la religión, la magia, las supersticiones y el folklore de los negros criollos y del pueblo de Cuba. By LYDIA CABRERA. La Habana, 1954(?). Ediciones C. R.

Proto-Lima: a Middle Period Culture of Peru. By DWIGHT T. WALLACE. Chicago, 1954. Chicago Natural History Museum. Fieldiana: Anthropology, vol. 44, no. 1. Maps. Diagrams. Bibliography. Pp. 157. Paper. \$4.00.

Resumo histórico antropogeográfico do Estado de Alagoas. By TANCREDO MORAES. Rio de Janeiro, 1954. Irmãos Pongetti. Bibliography. Pp. 190.

A brief survey of physical features of the State of Alagoas, followed by a large section of biographical sketches of the area's notable citizens in colonial and modern times. With few exceptions the biographies are inadequate.

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COLONIAL

PORTUGUESE AMERICA

O bandeirismo paulista na expansão territorial do Brasil. By HERNANI CIDADE. Lisbon, 1954. Empresa Nacional de Publicidade. Coleção Histórica de Portugal, no. 1. Pp. 130. Paper.

After having defined "bandeira" and "bandeirismo," the author endeavors to bring to light the various factors which gave rise to the latter. These factors were in his opinion the need of obtaining slaves; the quest for precious metals and stones, spices and drugs to substitute for those from India; the search for pasture grounds in the interior, in the valleys of the great rivers; the desire for territorial expansion and for spreading the faith;