

temptation irresistible to "do a Trendex." I find 46 accepting, 35 rejecting, and 27 uncertain—which suggests something as to the gullibility of historians!

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Price Trends of Some Basic Commodities in Central Mexico, 1531-1570.

By WOODROW BORAH and SHERBURNE F. COOK. Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1958. University of California Press. Ibero-Americana, 40. Tables. Pp. 89. Paper. \$2.00.

This is a pioneer study, and the authors are exceedingly modest in stressing its limitations. The area to which the data refer is restricted to central Mexico, the period covered is short, and the price quotations embrace too few commodities to construct an index of general price movements. The authors are also extremely generous in commending a young French scholar, Jean-Pierre Berthe, whose work in progress promises to "go far beyond the present one."

Relying mainly on commutations of tribute and auction prices of commodities delivered as tribute, Borah and Cook have collected more or less continuous quotations for corn, wheat, cloth, clothing, and some "lesser commodities." While seasonal and cyclical movements are hardly distinguishable even in the best series, there is no mistaking the upward trend. Scattered wage data enable the authors to make some calculations of real wages in terms of corn. Most significant, in the light of Professor Hamilton's findings with respect to real wages in Spain, is the conclusion that the Mexican worker materially improved his status in the first half-century after the Conquest. "The frightful losses in population thus enabled the Indians to wring from their masters substantial improvements in living conditions that helped eventually to reverse the demographic trend."

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El proceso de Nariño a la luz de documentos inéditos. By GUILLERMO HERNÁNDEZ DE ALBA. Bogotá, 1958. Editorial ABC. Biblioteca de Historia Nacional, XCI. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 327. Paper.

The documents contained in this important new volume constitute "el verdadero proceso de Nariño," in the words of Guillermo Hernández de Alba, who discovered them (with one exception) in Spanish archives and now publishes them with a brief introduction. They include extensive testimony from and about Antonio Nariño, relating to his printing of the *Rights of Man* and other charges of subversion; letters and papers found in Nariño's study; and a few later items.

The reader will find numerous interesting details here on Nariño, his friends and associates, and his social-economic background. However, there are no startling revelations. Instead, the documents conveniently confirm the "textbook" version of Nariño's role. They clearly destroy the odd notion, advanced by Nariño's enemies in his lifetime and by some modern historians, that he stirred up a fuss over the *Rights of Man* as a smokescreen to distract attention from his supposed mishandling of the Tesorería de Diezmos. And they leave no doubt that the Colombian Precursor, at least, drew inspiration for his advanced political ideas from mainly French and Anglo-Saxon sources, and at most secondarily (perhaps subconsciously) from the doctrines of Francisco Suárez, whom a certain revisionist school would like to present as the true intellectual author of Spanish American independence.

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O primeiro caudilho rio-grandense. Fisionomia do herói missionário Sepé Tiaraju. By MANSUETO BERNARDI. Rio de Janeiro-Pôrto Alegre-São