

proceeds of lands which they controlled directly, rather than from the stores of the central government. Her research on this point corrects a serious error in my earlier treatment of the subject. Her emphasis on the lack of commercial law among the Incas is also of special interest.

In spite of her criticism of the idealization of the Inca state, Mrs. Moore cannot bring herself to admit a feature of Inca land policy which became a major political problem in the last days of the empire. The "lands of the Inca" were treated as the private estate of the ruler, to be passed on to his descendants other than his successor. His successor, therefore, had to seize additional lands in each province in order to provide an estate to support his government. The implications of such a policy, even by the fourth reign, can readily be imagined. I believe that it was Juan Benayas, in 1951, who first called attention to the evidence for the accumulation of Inca estates. The evidence is as good as that for most other features of Inca land policy, but Mrs. Moore rejects it with the remark that "it does not seem possible" (p. 94). However, this is the only important case in which she argues against the evidence.

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#### COLONIAL PERIOD

*Colección de documentos para la historia de la formación social de Hispanoamérica 1493-1810.* Volume II, Books I & II. Madrid, 1958. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. Pp. 908. Index. of persons (Book II). Paper.

Professor Konetzke's continuation of his source collection on Hispanic-American social history containing some 574 items covers most of the seventeenth century from 1593 to 1690. The vast majority of the documents are unpublished accounts from the Archivo General de Indias. And the bulk of these are royal cédulas and communications from the Council of the Indies, although there are some selections from officials in the colonies. The diverse regions of the empire are widely represented. Of course, this collection is a selection with the inevitable element of personal choice involved. But Dr. Konetzke must be complimented for the remarkably well-balanced and comprehensive coverage of this collection. The whole panorama of that com-

plex society based on class, race and privilege emerges from these documents.

The high quality of editorial scholarship needs no further comment here other than a generous acknowledgment. This series (and the author must be encouraged to publish further volumes on the eighteenth century) is a rather significant publication. They ought to stimulate much needed research in social history in general, and the two volumes under review implicitly point up the desirability of studying in depth the often ignored seventeenth century. The second century of the rule of the House of Austria has traditionally suffered neglect because of the greater interest historians have shown in the institution-building sixteenth century and the reform-oriented eighteenth century. And yet the seventeenth century was a truly vital period for Hispanic America. Although the top leadership in Spain progressively decayed as Spain's position as a world power disintegrated, the bureaucracy and the church provided some measure of stability in the colonies. This stability enabled the full impact of Hispanic cultural influences to spread and to take root. Perhaps the most outstanding feature of Spanish (and Portuguese also) colonization in the New World was the amalgamation of Europeans, Negroes and Indians into what José Vasconcelos has poetically called *la raza cósmica*. Exploitation and cruelty played big roles in this racial mixture. It was seldom a "pretty" sight, but it was a rather significant experience in human history. And the initial impact of these races living and breeding together is amply reflected in the raw material contained in these two splendidly edited volumes under review.

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*Los tesoros del Perú.* By BARTOLOME DE LAS CASAS. Translated and annotated by ANGEL LOSADA. Madrid, 1958. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. Facsimiles. Indexes. Pp. xxviii, 480. Paper. 200 pesetas.

Compuesto en 1561, este tratado ético-jurídico refleja la rebosante humanidad de su nonagenario autor, a quien la edad no impide razonar con el mismo acerbo rigor que informa toda su anterior producción. La maraña argumental se desborda hasta límites insospechados, puesto que el tema propio del escrito, es a saber, el análisis de la licitud de la apropiación de los tesoros extraídos por los españoles de las sepulturas y enterramientos prehispánicos en el Perú, apenas ocupa las veinte últimas páginas de este compacto volumen. Todo lo demás