

ment was lacking; and finally, that the pact contained an error of frontier definition which made its execution impossible. Given these facts, and the condemnation of aggression by American international law, the 1942 protocol is without legality and, therefore, void. This document is a significant statement of the plaintiff's position in the most serious remaining American frontier question.

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The following books are reviewed by CHARLES W. ARNADE, University of South Florida.

Contribución a la historia del fidelismo en el Perú (1808-1810). By ARMANDO NIETO VÉLEZ. Lima, 1960. Instituto Riva-Agüero. Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Documents. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 166.

Let me say with all frankness that I am most sorry that this study was not available when I wrote my book dealing with the formation of Bolivia. The Nieto Vélez book, although it is nothing radically new, is the best and clearest sketch of the mechanism that triggered the War of Independence in the Andean countries. I think this book proves once more—and with new sources—that independence would not have come when it came if the Napoleonic invasion had not occurred. Even with the French occupation of Spain independence might not have succeeded if Ferdinand VII had been of a different fiber.

As to Peru, the author gives much credit to Viceroy Abascal for avoiding the tumults and confusions in 1808-1810 that occurred in Chuquisaca, La Paz, Quito, Santiago, and Buenos Aires. Abascal clearly understood the dangers and had an admirable historical perspective, a vision of the future, a realistic view of the Spanish political situation, and the juggling for true power of the various factions at home and in the Empire after the fall

of the Bourbons. If Ferdinand had only possessed the *perspicacia* and courage of an Abascal!

Many other items of interest emerge from this study that are worthy of deep debate. Furthermore, Mr. Nieto Vélez has a great ability for explaining complicated concepts in precise sentences with clear words. His bibliography and notes are most illuminating. This then is an important—crucial—book in the bibliography of the War of Independence.

El escultor y arquitecto Martín de Oviedo. By JOSÉ DE MESA y TERESA GIBBERT DE MESA. Potosí, 1960. Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas. Universidad Tomás Frías. Serie VI: Arte. Cuaderno No. 5. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 27. Paper.

The Mesa couple have again proven their most valuable worth to the study of Bolivian history. It is important that someone depart from political history, and write about Bolivia's rich cultural history. The Mesas are doing it and they are doing it with excellence. This slim monograph is loaded with new information. The master of the arts, Martín de Oviedo, born in Spain around 1565 but active in Upper Peru (and other areas of Spanish America), is sketched. His influence on Potosí art of the early seventeenth century is detailed. The Mesas believe that the Potosí church of Nuestra Señora de Copacabana from the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries is one of the finest relics of colonial art in all of America. Martín de Oviedo had much to do with the architecture and the sculpture of this church. Indeed a fine study.

The Past. The Concise Encyclopedia of Archaeology. Edited by LEONARD COTTELL. New York, 1960. Hawthorn Books, Inc. Illustrations. Maps. Pp. 512. \$12.95.

The trained archaeologist might find this beautiful tome somewhat superficial, but there is no doubt that the