

BOOK NOTICES

GENERAL

Estado general de la provincia de San Salvador: Reyno de Guatemala. By DON ANTONIO GUTIÉRREZ Y ULLOA. San Salvador, 1962. Dirección General de Publicaciones del Ministerio de Educación. Colección Historia, Vol. 9. Charts. Notes. Index. Pp. 145. Paper.

Because of a royal order of the intendants of New Spain of 1786 and royal instructions of September 23, 1803, to the governing president and captain general of San Salvador, don Antonio Gutiérrez y Ulloa undertook the preparation of this report; it was first published in San Salvador in 1926, more than a century after its compilation. This second printing is Volume IX of the *Colección Historia* of the Ministry of Education of El Salvador.

Sr. Gutiérrez y Ulloa divided the material into two parts: the general status of the population and the actual state of the Royal Treasury in the year 1807. In the first part a rather detailed description was given of the families, the classes, the estates, the public offices, the clergy, the character and customs of the people, the topographic division of the land, and the produce of consumption and commerce. In the second the objects of domestic and foreign produce were well covered and numerous helpful tables and charts were included. A good index makes the volume very useable.

This definitely is not a trade book nor was one intended. With little difficulty one may find the type of government in a city, province, or town; the number of Spanish, Indians, Ladinos, mulattoes, or Negroes living in any area; the rivers, lakes, and climatic conditions; the crops grown or the industries in a locale, or even the economic basis of a particular hacienda. Since this was the first and only such major work for the intendancy, it is a valuable source for the period just prior to the independence movements. The printing was superior

to that usually done in Central America, and no errata was necessary.

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West Indian Family Structure. By M. G. SMITH. Seattle, 1962. University of Washington Press. Research Institute for the Study of Man. Charts. Tables. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. vii, 311. \$6.00.

The Jamaican anthropologist, M. G. Smith, deals here with the domestic organization of sample populations in five West Indian Negroid lower class communities. Comparison of his data leads Smith to the conclusion that the family systems of the five groups each belong to one of three variants of a basic structural type: Latante and Rural Jamaica have a mating organization, in which extra-residential mating, consensual cohabitation, and marriage each have their successive place in the individual life cycle; Grenville and Kingston also know these three mating forms, but here they lack a specific order in the individual's life; Carriacou disapproves of consensual unions and integrates extra-residential mating and marriage in one system. The differences between these variants cannot be adequately explained by demographic and ecological factors; in Smith's opinion, they are to be attributed to differences in the way in which, during slavery and the post-emancipation period, marriage could be integrated in the already existing mating organization.

M. G. Smith convincingly criticizes R. T. Smith, who, in his *The Negro Family in British Guiana* (London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1956), considers the household with an elementary family as the developing unit from which the variety of alternative domestic groups is derived. He also succeeds in making clear that the significance of the 'grandmother family' has been overstated, that marriage and consensual union have to be clearly dis-