

do de Cultura Eeonomica. Vida y Pensamiento de Mxico. Notes. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 461. Paper.

The inspiration behind this book, a study of the rôle of science in the history of Mexico, is in itself a contribution. The difficulties lie in definition of terms and implementation. For Eli de Gortari science means variously technology, knowledge of environment and speculation about the nature of the world, religious beliefs, practice and education in medicine and the physical and life sciences, and even a scientific, *i.e.*, Marxist, interpretation of general Mexican history. As a result, the work is a catalogue of data, often mere lists of names, concerning aspects of Mexican history from the fifteenth century to the present, with commentary by the author. Much is useful; much is of dubious pertinence and already has been discussed better elsewhere.

The theme in any of its appropriate meanings probably requires group undertaking. Even Gortari's extensive bibliography omits much significant material. Hence his volume should be regarded as a series of notes and a beginning.

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Miahuatlán un pueblo de México, monografía del distrito de Miahuatlán estado de Oaxaca. Vols. I, II. By BASILIO ROJAS. México, D.F., 1958, 1962. Notes. Tables. Maps. Illustrations. Pp. 442, 416. Paper.

Basilio Rojas has added two more outstanding volumes to his studies, which include *La experiencia de México en el problema agrario*, *Trabajo recepcional*, and *La Soberana Convención de Aguascalientes*. These new volumes take their place in the growing bibliography of books on communities and districts, such as Donald D. Brand's *Quiroga, a Mexican Municipio* and Ralph L. Beal's *Cherán: A Sierra Tarascan Village*.

As the author states in the preface, Miahuatlán is a district about which not only the world but his countrymen are ignorant. It is worthy of careful attention, however, for it is an area similar to hundreds of others in the Mexican Republic. Indeed, much of the value of this study lays in the fact that Miahuatlán is Mexico in microcosm.

Volume One presents a lucid analysis of the orography, hydrography, climate, fauna, flora, and mineral resources, as well as a specific geographical description, of all the territorial divisions of the district of Miahuatlán. Adding to the value of this work is the carefully compiled data on the population and boundaries of the villages and on the vocations and dress of their inhabitants. The author also dedicates a chapter to the patriotic past of this Mexican pueblo.

Rojas does an excellent job of informing the reader of this highly interesting area. The lack of bibliography, the scarcity of footnotes, and the poor black and white photographs are overcome by the sheer wealth of material, maps, and charts. The first volume thus graphically builds the stage upon which Volume Two places the historical man and then traces his development to the present day.

The second volume describes all phases of life in a Mexican village—from language to health. The study begins with a discussion of the population in pre-Cortés Miahuatlán, and there are excellent population charts for the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In following chapters, a discussion of the Zapotec, Chontal, Náhua, and Aztec languages is included which explains the influence of these languages, as well as Castilian Spanish, upon the contemporary idiom. The influence of Indian painting, architecture, music, and literature is also noted. Another chapter outlines the development of education emphasizing the rise of public education in the late colonial and modern periods. In addition, the government of the district, in terms of its relationship to the municipio, state, and federal governments, and the evolu-

tion of justice from the laws of the Indians through the colonial period and into the twentieth century are analyzed. The synthesis of Indian and Castilian culture is further illustrated by Rojas' discussion of religion in Miahuatlán. In the concluding chapters Rojas presents a detailed description of the social and family organization of this village. The worth of this second study is increased by the excellent documentation, bibliography, and complementary photographs.

These two volumes represent exhaustive research and scholarly examination of the district of Miahuatlán. Furthermore, they are written with the dedication of a Mexican patriot. These studies possess merit because of this alone, and they are invaluable as the source of the most extensive and varied information available on this region of Mexico.

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The Coming of Justice to California.

Edited by JOHN GALVIN. Translated by ADELAIDE SMITHERS. San Francisco, 1963. John Howell-Books. Illustrations. Appendices. Maps. Pp. 80. \$7.50.

This book makes available English translations of several interesting documents. First and most important is the *Reglamento, e instrucción para los presidios que se han de formar en la línea de frontera de la Nueva España*, promulgated in 1772 for government of the newly-formed Provincias Internas. This basic document detailing military procedures, deployment of troops, and organization of the defensive perimeter of the presidial forces on the northern frontier of New Spain is an excellent expression of Hispanic colonial policy as it had developed in the almost three centuries of New World experience.

Second document presented is a speech by Carlos Carrillo, Alta California's representative to the Mexican Chamber of Deputies. It is an impassioned plea for establishment of adequate administration of justice in his home area of California, reflecting in

considerable measure the rudimentary conditions of Mexican control over their most northwesterly territory. Carrillo called for a fifteen point plan of legal administration, with particular emphasis on methods of appeal from courts of first instance.

The final document is a decree by the enigmatic Mexican President, Antonio López de Santa Anna, issued in 1834 and establishing circuit tribunals and district courts in all states and territories of the Republic of Mexico. It consists of 74 articles and details many items of the nature and authority of the judiciary. There is no evidence that this decree was an outgrowth of Carrillo's earlier speech, but it seems to have met many of the needs as that California representative had previously outlined them.

Only one of these three documents concerns California solely, though by implication or indirectly all bear on the judicial administration of California, thereby making the title of the work both misleading and unsatisfactory. This non-descriptive title, lack of index or footnotes, and the affectation of British spelling of words such as labour, vigour, valour, honour, etc., are the only points at which one might object to this well-translated, beautifully printed, and handsomely presented work. Perhaps we should be satisfied that there are three good sources for North American history made available in competent English.

Included are two maps, one a representation of the location of frontier presidios and the other an adaptation of Nicolás Lafora's map of the northern area of New Spain, drawn in 1771. The latter is very useful. Also included are two appendices in the form of additional brief documentation on judicial matters.

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The Lost World of Quintana Roo. By MICHEL PEISSEL. New York, 1963. E. P. Dutton & Company, Inc. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 306. \$5.95.

Michel Peissel, a young cosmopolitan vacationing in Mexico in 1958, became