

The Last Years of Spanish Texas, 1778-1821. By ODIE B. FAULK. The Hague, 1964. Mouton & Company. Pp. 156. 20 guilders.

In Texas, as elsewhere in the Spanish borderlands, the closing decades of the Spanish period are the Dark Ages. Faulk's *Last Years of Spanish Texas*, written from the sources, is a succinct summary of happenings, 1778-1821. It looks first at the governor, presidios, and missions and finds the Spanish Texans engaged in a holding operation rather than a program of expansion.

One reason for Spanish neglect, though not stressed in this account, was that the international frontier had advanced in 1763 to the Mississippi. Spanish policy, therefore, was more intent on strengthening Louisiana than Texas. In 1803, with Louisiana lost, Texas once more was the far frontier. Its defense was reinforced, but soon the War of Independence interfered with support of the province. American penetration, which had begun earlier, now increased and considerably exceeded the contact with California. Besides settlers and traders, there soon were the Gutiérrez-Magee filibusters, sympathetic to the War of Independence, and pirates at Galveston Island. Spanish control was not moribund—Arredondo wiped out the Gutiérrez-Magee band. Yet these were years of decline, after which Spanish capitulation to Iturbide carried Texas and the other borderlands to independence.

The interpretations offered are not all of equal value, but the details are reliably assembled. Through no fault of the author, they are miscellaneous and do not build to a dramatic climax. Little is said about relations with the incoming Americans, who in other such provinces sometimes were an important supplement to the earlier population. Here the stress is far heavier on the closing phases of the Spanish regime.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

A Century of Disagreement: The Chemical Conflict, 1864-1964. By SHELDON B. LISS. Washington, D. C., 1965. The University Press of Washington, D. C. Notes. Bibliography. Charts. Maps. Pp. 167.

In this volume Sheldon B. Liss of the Department of History at the University of Notre Dame gives a good review of the Chamizal

case including source materials, notes, statistics, treaties, documents, and maps.

To those on the border who have lived with the Chamizal problem, however, Liss's book points up the difficulties facing an outside researcher. When he deals with facts based on his sources, the author is on much safer ground than when he tries to interpret the local atmosphere of the El Paso-Juárez area. It sounds very strange, for instance, when he suggests that the Chamizal is now a center for prostitution, or that its residents will suffer because they cannot find other parts of El Paso with their language and mores. This reviewer hears from a boundary commission official that no displaced persons have been forced to emigrate back to Mexico as a result of settlement of the dispute.

The book loses in depth because the author has not evaluated in more detail the juridical issues of the 1911 arbitration, which was essentially a legal procedure and broke down for legal reasons. The president of an arbitral commission serves as an umpire, and the 1911 litigation was not particularly arbitrary or confusing as is alleged here. Professor Liss presents his material in an interesting style, but his work would be more useful to scholars if it had an index.

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The Mexican Mining Industry, 1890-1950. A Study of the Interaction of Politics, Economics, and Technology. By MARVIN D. BERNSTEIN. Albany, 1965. State University of New York. Tables. Appendices. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 412. \$10.00.

Professor Bernstein has performed a very useful chore in his book by drawing together in one place and in English material sufficient to give a student adequate ground to stand on while considering the role of mines and metals in the history of Mexico. It is a mine of information on the interrelation of copper, silver, zinc, gold, and coal exploitation and the connection of those activities with the development of Mexican railroads, electrical power, organized labor, and smelting. On the mining regions of Mexico, the famous mines, and the great smelters the book is superb.

In his title Bernstein implies that he will study the interaction of politics, economics, and technology. Since he seems to view politics primarily as laws, and economics mainly as statistics, his strength really is in technology. It becomes impossible for him to correlate the three. Laws, the product of politics, are ever changing while politics remains remarkably stable; economics involves the social relations of