

The legal proceedings continued through the entire eighteenth century, serving to sustain to some degree the integrity of the Indian community. After Independence and assignment of land to individual Indians, mestization and essentially complete loss of the Totonac language followed promptly.

The character and content of this volume may imply more about modern Mexican intellectual life than it says explicitly about the history of Tlapacoyan. Most evident are the handsome printing and binding; pride in the citizen's home town, even though it be a small and quite ordinary place, is deemed worthy of substantial subsidy. The unselfconscious, uncritical glow of national patriotism so characteristic of modern Mexico is fully apparent, but issues that might still divide the country on ideological grounds are played down. Ejidos are accepted as a part of the modern landscape, but they receive neither encomiums as a solution to social ills nor criticism for their economic inefficiency. The reforms of Juárez directed against the economic power of the Church are duly noted, but in general that institution is represented as beneficent. Finally a good half of the study concerns itself with the development of the Totonacapan prior to 1519. Though not an archaeologist, Ramírez Lavoignet has used other scholars' reports and analyses of codices and chronicles to present a detailed and perceptive, though necessarily somewhat speculative, history of the region over the two millennia prior to Cortés' arrival. Even at the local level and in places of only modest archaeological import, Mexico's interest in its Indian background is considerably greater than one would find in the United States.

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Tonalá. Conservatism, Responsibility, and Authority in a Mexican Town. By MAY N. DÍAZ. Berkeley, 1966. University of California Press. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 234. \$5.00.

How does the village preserve its traditional ways despite the exploding industrialization of the surrounding region? This question provides the theme for a community study done on the outskirts of Guadalajara and reported in such a pleasant, unpretentious manner that the pages slip quickly by. The reader is not encumbered by the need to scrutinize maps, tables, or the fine print of footnotes because there are none. But that fact handicaps the book as a piece of professional literature, and it does not live up to its billing on the dust jacket as providing "sufficient detail . . . for more general compara-

tive studies.” This is too bad, because the author clearly speaks with authority and surprising insight in many places, indicating that the information at her disposal was of far greater depth than what is actually presented. Thus, for example, she casually mentions her “field census” and provides us with but the sketchiest of results: the town’s population is reported almost apologetically between parentheses (5,428), and no demographic analysis is attempted. Moreover, she makes scant reference to the many other similar studies from the Mexican context and ventures few comparative remarks.

The author’s best moments—and some are very good indeed—occur in the chapters discussing social relations “in the bosom of the family” and in “the social world outside the home.” Here, the subtleties of Tonalá life are convincingly portrayed and analyzed. It is in these sixty pages that Díaz makes her contribution to the Mexico literature, and upon them rest the ensuing discussion of social, economic, and political change—or the lack thereof.

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Mexico and the Spanish Cortes, 1810-1822: Eight Essays. Edited by NETTIE LEE BENSON. Austin, 1966. University of Texas Press for the Institute of Latin American Studies. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 243. \$5.00.

These essays show clearly that the Mexican deputies to the Spanish Cortes were both more numerous and influential than many scholars have thought. The early reforms, however, were obviously pressed by Spaniards rather than by Mexican deputies. Even so, Charles R. Berry states that between 1810 and 1822 “the Mexican provinces experienced five elections . . . each being held on three different levels and each involving all citizens who had a right to vote” (p. 41). Evidently the last phrase carries a substantial qualification, but the fact was that by 1822 colonials had gained valuable experience. The same idea is confirmed by the discussion of municipal electoral reform by Roger L. Cuniff (p. 82).

The essay by David T. Garza outlines the efforts of Mexican deputies to secure for the Mexicans equality of rights with the Spaniards. Unfortunately this writer is somewhat careless about details not pertinent to his main interest. He should have explained the discrepancy between a footnote (p. 48) which quotes population figures for Mexico alone as 16,000,000, while on page 55 is the figure of only 15,000,000 for the vast “territorial area of the Americas.”

To many readers the conservatism of the Mexican deputies in the