

The Anglo-Spanish Struggle for Mosquitia. By TROY S. FLOYD. Albuquerque, 1967. University of New Mexico Press. Maps. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xii, 235. \$6.95.

Significant studies on the Kingdom of Guatemala in the late colonial period have emerged from the research of Ralph Woodward, Robert S. Smith, and now Troy Floyd, who makes another important contribution to this body of literature. In this volume Floyd focuses on the military response of Spanish authorities to attacks and encroachments by British interlopers on the Caribbean coast of the Central American isthmus in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the process he reconstructs a convincing picture of political structures and functions in colonial Central America.

Opening with a sophisticated description of isthmian geography and pre-Spanish Indian patterns, he analyzes the administrative organization introduced by the Spanish in the sixteenth century. The British challenge did not appear until the 1630s in the sporadic activities of the Providence Company and the subsequent establishment of contacts and trading settlements on the Mosquito Shore among the fiercely independent Sambo and Mosquito Indians. Late in the seventeenth century, during the wave of buccaneering raids emanating from Jamaica and Tortuga, the Spanish retreated inland and almost abandoned the Caribbean coast. Having deserted Trujillo in 1643, the Spanish centered their military defenses in the north on Fort San Felipe at the entrance of the Golfo Dulce, and in the south on Fort Inmaculada on the upper San Juan River, gateway to Granada. Attempts to utilize a wave of evangelical fervor to convert and win over the hostile tribes of the coast from their British allies were unsuccessful.

Floyd then traces the long, involved efforts of the Spanish to launch a counteroffensive in the eighteenth century to drive the British from the Shore. The first half of the century was a period of "frustration and defeat," but Spanish persistence, evident in the construction of Fort Omoa on the Honduran coast, was finally rewarded. After the Wars of the American Revolution, 1779-1783, the British evacuated the Shore settlements under the Anglo-Spanish Convention of 1787. Spanish efforts to colonize and hold the Shore did not materialize, however, and the situation at the close of the colonial era remained indecisive.

Floyd writes in a straightforward style that is clear and readable. He gives needed dimension to his study by relating the particulars

of the Mosquito Shore controversy to Spain's overall involvement in European events and imperial defense, thus providing a case study of Spanish policy formulation and execution during two centuries of colonial rule. The reader will appreciate the four maps, the chronology of events, and the lists of Mosquito kings, Spanish provincial governors in Central America, and Jamaican governors included in the appendix. The study is well researched and documented. The basic collections of two nineteenth-century Costa Ricans, León Fernández and Manuel M. de Peralta, were supplemented by the author's own research in the Archivo General de Indias in Seville and in the Archivo Nacional in Guatemala. Recommended for the serious scholar.

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Gobierno del Perú (1567). By JUAN DE MATIENZO. Edited by GUILLERMO LOHMANN VILLENA. Paris, 1967. Institut Français d'Études Andines. Travaux de l'Institut Français Andine, XI. Notes. Pp. 366. Paper.

With this edition Lohmann Villena adds an important title to his long list of publications on Peruvian history. His preliminary study (in French) not only presents the usual introductory subjects, but goes on to portray the whole intellectual milieu of Peru in the 1560s. Lohmann's erudition is stunning. Anyone desiring to write the intellectual history of this crucial decade will find the bibliographical foundations laid here. The main characteristic of the time was a growing disposition to take stock of the Spanish colonial enterprise, an attitude manifested on the one hand in a crisis of conscience and on the other in efforts toward codification.

As Lohmann asserts, the *Gobierno del Perú* is the most impressive product of that ferment and a uniquely valuable source. Usually the historians of colonial Spanish America must draw either on official reports far removed from reality or on great masses of archival materials which are fresh and authentic but minute in scope. Here we have, for once, the work of a man with powers of close observation and also the legalist's capacity for clear organization and synthesis. No one source can serve all purposes, but Matienzo ranges widely over the two main aspects of the highland Peruvian world, the Indian as well as the Spanish; and he always prefaces his legal recommendations with a masterly and pertinent description. Of course, some abstraction is involved, but Matienzo's eye for truth and detail yields to none, unless it be to Cieza de León. The book has relevance to all of