

Las huelgas textiles en el porfiriato. By MOISÉS GONZÁLEZ NAVARRO. Puebla, México, 1970. Editorial José M. Cajica. Biblioteca Cajica de Cultura Universal, 67. Pp. 411. Paper.

This pocket-sized book is composed of three distinct parts, an essay, five detailed tables, and a collection of documents, most of which have been published separately in the 1950s. The preliminary essay, originally appearing in *Historia Mexicana* (Nos. 22 and 24), chronologically describes the most significant strikes which erupted during the Díaz régime, based primarily on newspaper sources. The author supports the research of other scholars that these conflicts were basically economic in nature, revolving around the issues of wages, hours, *tiendas de rayas*, and oppressive supervision.

Section two provides us with five extensive tables, originally published in the *Boletín Bibliográfico* of the Ministerio de Hacienda, which are of great value to the economic and social historian. The first lists the various textile factories existing in 1877, their location, owners, value of their machinery and plant, type of machinery, and amount and cost of raw materials required for operation. The chart continues by giving the number of men, women, and children employed, the range in salaries, types and quantity of textiles manufactured, their price, and their marketing outlets. The remaining tables give less detailed data for 1893, but include wage and employment figures. The documentary third of the study is comprised of a description of the major textile factories taken from J. Figueroa Domenech and ten newspaper editorials which appeared subsequently to the strikes of 1877 and 1906 to illustrate the shifts in press and management opinion during the régime.

It is a pity that the three sections have remained distinct units and have not been more closely integrated into an analytical treatment of the textile industry and its strikes. Why, as one editorial asks, was the textile industry plagued with more strikes than other industries even though textile workers did not compose the largest industrial occupational group? The relations between the *círculos*, European anarchist and syndicalist propagandists, foreign and domestic ownership, and the strikes still have to be unraveled. Did the textile workers influence the cigar-makers and railroad workers where they were in close geographical proximity? Can the Río Blanco confrontation be explained completely by their short term economic grievances if wages did not substantially rise between 1877 and 1893? González Navarro has given us some useful data so necessary to tackle these questions

in the future, and hopefully it will spur further work in this still neglected area of Mexican history.

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Revolution! Mexico 1910-20. By RONALD ATKIN. New York, 1970. The John Day Company. Illustrations. Maps. Table. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 354. \$8.50.

Understandably, few English writers have given much heed to the Mexican Revolution, the major phases of which coincided with the First World War in which Britain had to fight for her very life. Most of the studies of the Mexican Revolution written in English are by Americans whose works often seem to fall into one of two broad categories. The first comprises those works that stress the picturesque, the exciting, and the sensational, usually linked with virtual hero-worship of some outstanding figure of the Revolution; the second includes works which are so "scholarly" that they lack life, and in which the men and women of the Revolution are overshadowed by trends, influences, sociology, and economics.

The author of the present work, Mr. Ronald Atkin, is an English journalist who speaks Spanish fluently and who conducted a major part of his research in Mexico and the United States. As an Englishman he has been able to achieve an objectivity and impartiality that few Americans and no Mexicans could attain. His style is lively and vivid; he includes sufficient "human interest" material to hold the reader's interest without losing sight of the great issues that were at stake in the Mexican Revolution. In a few descriptive phrases, the author characterizes each of the figures of the Revolution, as he introduces them, in a way that makes them human beings—gives them flesh and blood. For example, the first mention of Pascual Orozco, is illustrative: "A tall, gaunt mountaineer with blue eyes and freckled face. . . ."

The writer gives an adequate discussion of the background and causes of the Mexican Revolution, the tyrannies and abuses of the Díaz dictatorship, the oppression of the masses under the widening feudalism of the Díaz regime, and the impossibility of effecting any changes as long as Díaz held power. The narrative follows the events of the Revolution from Madero's first abortive efforts, through the Huerta episode, the long drawn out struggle between Carranza and Villa to Carranza's death and the inauguration of Obregón as President of Mexico. The narrative is well organized, and the interrelationships between the confused and confusing events of the long revolutionary period are clearly expressed.