

culture. Hopefully the volume on colonial documents will encourage more scholars to undertake work on Tarahumara history. At the same time it is hoped that the popularity of the ethnographic book will not lead to the swarming of more tourists into the Tarahumara country.

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Los Paisanos: Spanish Settlers on the Northern Frontier of New Spain.

By OAKAH L. JONES, JR. Norman, 1979. University of Oklahoma Press. Illustrations. Maps. Tables. Chronology. Glossary. Abbreviations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xv, 351. Cloth. \$22.50.

Observing that historians of the Spanish borderlands have emphasized accounts of government officials and institutions, the presidial system and military affairs, and the work of the Church and its missionaries, Oakah Jones chooses to concentrate on the ordinary settlers, the *paisanos* (countrymen). He writes of the civilian—the farmer, day laborer, stockman, and artisan—who was typical of the majority of the frontier colonists.

Jones modifies the traditional pattern of northward expansion established by the Bolton school, seeing the Pacific coast as a fourth, separate route. The four frontier areas are discussed as distinct units in the book. The author wisely considers frontier settlement in broad territorial dimensions that include both modern north Mexican states along with those areas now in our Southwest. He emphasizes the cultural unity, a character that was relatively intact until 1848. Thus, for example, familiarity with Coahuila's early history is important for the understanding of early Texas colonization. However, the author does demonstrate some of the ways in which local experiences and conditions shaped traditions that eventually resulted in distinctive forms—as, for example, in the arts, crafts, and architecture of Santa Fe.

“As to the social habits and customs of the people,” a noted historian of New Mexico wrote years ago, “there is nothing worth recording” (p. 163). Jones happily confutes this assertion. Not that life on the frontier was in any way brilliant; most of the *paisanos* were hardworking, poor, and illiterate, and life was no doubt prosaic for the most part. But scandals, revolts, and crimes were sufficiently numerous to spice up life occasionally. This study devotes considerable space to discussions of social life in the communities—living conditions, morals, customs, economic life, cultural activities, and such other information that sheds light on the character of frontier life. No doubt readers in this country will have most

interest in chapters dealing with our border states, yet Jones' chapters on the north Mexican states provide information that is less easily available.

Although there are some original manuscript sources in this work, the study's importance is that the author has drawn on a wide variety of published works to present a clear synthesis that is very useful as a reference work. Many statistics are provided, with population figures being of special interest. In addition, a glossary, photographs, and a valuable bibliographical essay enhance the attractive book.

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Tributo y trabajo del indio en Nueva Granada: De Jiménez de Quesada a Sande. By MARÍA ANGELES EUGENIO MARTÍNEZ. Prologue by LUIS NAVARRO GARCÍA. Seville, 1977. Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos de Sevilla. Map. Tables. Appendixes. Notes. Index. Pp. xvii, 654. Paper.

Some years ago Luis Navarro García undertook through his graduate students at the University of Seville the task of exploring the socio-economic foundations of colonial New Granada. This ambitious project has led to the publication of a series of theses, beginning in 1975, under the auspices of the Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos, which includes regional studies on Popayán and Santa Marta and general works on the encomienda and mita in the seventeenth century and on the encomienda in the eighteenth. The present contribution by María Angeles Eugenio Martínez, despite its broad title, treats only the sixteenth century and focuses almost exclusively upon the provinces of Santa Fe and Tunja.

The central objective of Eugenio Martínez was to examine the effect of the New Laws in New Granada. Conducting research in both the Archivo General de Indias in Seville and the Archivo Nacional in Bogotá, she found that these laws and ancillary legislation on the treatment of Indians were not applied fully until the final decade of the sixteenth century. Faced by the opposition of the encomenderos, by an overall labor shortage, and even by an initial lack of beasts of burden, the audiencia had little real prospect of enforcing effectively the royal will. Indian slavery was rare, but the encomenderos did liberally avail themselves of Indian labor to carry loads, to work mines, and to provide agricultural and household services. Moreover, early attempts to standardize and codify tribute obligations also proved futile. In the long run, nevertheless, the decline of the Indian population, the rise of rival in-