

confuse a tool with a methodology, not to mention any relationship to a construct of thought. It is a far cry from the copies of Professor James's fieldnotes, which reflected an approach to a problem rather more than data. The concern is that Dr. Strangelove in his automated control center, without benefit of the ameliorating aspect of fieldwork, ends with a truncated and possibly misleading version of what is going on down there where the earth is sensitized red. The geographer, like historians, may need to be computer-qualified, but certainly not computer-oriented—at least if the welfare of mankind rather than the professional career of the geographer is the criterion.

This disparate collection of essays is highly recommended to those of the present generation of Latin American geographers, historians, and other area specialists interested in better understanding the process of how the state of the art got to be what it is.

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Historical Geography of Latin America: Papers in Honor of Robert C. West. Edited by WILLIAM V. DAVIDSON and JAMES J. PARSONS. Baton Rouge: School of Geoscience, Louisiana State University, 1980. Tables. Maps. Figures. Graphs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 163. Paper. \$13.00.

To some considerable degree, the fourteen research papers in this volume reflect the diversity of subject, theme, time, and place to be found in the work of geographer Robert C. West, in whose honor they were first presented at New Orleans in 1978 and are now formally and attractively published. The fifteenth paper is the editors' biographical sketch of West, which includes a list of his publications that is already obsolete.

Contributors variously review the organization and bounding of territory among pre-Columbian Aztecs and Tlaxcalans; railroad systems and social networks; colonial demography and social services; Náhuatl soil glyphs and pre-Columbian cultivation of *musa*; tropical savannas in Peru and edges of tropical ecosystems in Sonora; the *relaciones* from South America; and geographers' views of the ancient Maya realm.

Although some of the papers are more refined and polished than others, even the most tentative demonstrates sound scholarship and careful thought. Many derive from both field and archival research in the pattern so ably demonstrated by West's own work. Most papers deal with topics in human geography; more deal with Mexico than with South

America; and more treat pre-Columbian and colonial geographies than modern landscapes. Diverse they may be, but they add up to a solid and appropriate tribute to an exemplary geographer-scholar.

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