

*Hacienda and Market in Eighteenth-Century Mexico: The Rural Economy of the Guadalajara Region, 1675–1820.* By ERIC VAN YOUNG. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981. Maps. Notes. Figures. Tables. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 388. Cloth. \$30.00.

Eric Van Young has written a major study of late colonial economic development, urban markets, and haciendas as economic institutions in the regional setting of central Jalisco. With extraordinarily rich series of documentation organized into major sections on population growth, the expanding urban market of Guadalajara, hacienda production—land tenure—labor, and conflicts over land in the late eighteenth century, *Hacienda and Market* provides convincing evidence of a long-term shift from ranching to wheat production and growing domination of the rural economy by a score of great estates. It also demonstrates changes in grain prices, increasing stability of hacienda ownership, expansion of the cash economy in the countryside, development of a buyer's market in labor, rising value of land and estates, haciendas becoming communities with large resident populations, and rising investment in agriculture (but with few technological changes) in the last fifty years of colonial rule. The economic history and patterns of ownership and labor demands of many individual haciendas are described in detail. A short review can only allude to the many secondary points that are established and the painstaking connections that are made among them. The book also opens new areas of rural history to systematic study over a long period: hacienda profitability and income structure, growth of a free labor system from the perspective of credit, and direct connections between changes in the countryside and the rapid growth of a provincial city.

The few gaps in the study, such as the contraband and the export trades, usually are dictated by the documentation rather than by the author's way of asking questions (although considering that the church was a major creditor of haciendas, it is odd that the *consolidación de vales* is not discussed; and the termination of this economic and social history in 1820 makes little sense). Concepts such as "hacienda" and "region" are carefully considered, and the recent literature on agrarian structures and rural Mexico in the colonial period are incorporated in fruitful ways. The concept of region used in this study is the restricted one of the area that supplied most of the wheat, corn, and meat to the city of Guadalajara. This suits the author's interest in the relationship of population growth and urban demand for grains to changes in the agrarian structure, but such a strong emphasis on the urban market for grain and the hacienda as economic institution offers less than a full regional study of the economy or the society. The author knows the price paid for such

a full treatment of his chosen subject: focusing on Guadalajara as market minimizes the connections between the region and other markets and centers of power such as the Altos and Bajío, the regional centers of Sayula and Zapotlán el Grande, and the markets of central Mexico and the North; and the role of village and rancho production of domestic wares, livestock, cereals, fruits, vegetables, and fish in the urban market receives little attention outside of maize production. Villagers appear here mainly as units of labor and disputants in land suits, as “largely passive objects of the forces of change in the regional economy” (p. 6).

The broad conclusions about population growth and the urban market determining food supply (following Ester Boserup) are plausible and important, but the growing urban demand for wheat may have been used to explain too much. Investment in wheat clearly is connected to the decline of ranching, but to establish how important it was as a cause we need to know more about the export market in livestock after mid-century—especially the effects of legal restrictions on the *repartimiento de mercancías* in Nueva España, which earlier had attracted large numbers of cattle and mules into central Mexico from Nueva Galicia. And the persistence of *repartimiento* labor drafts in Nueva Galicia long after they disappeared in central and southern Mexico may have more to do with administrative history than with stronger demand for wheat in Mexico City in the seventeenth century. If urban demand for wheat were the main reason for the *repartimiento*'s decline, it is curious that the labor drafts ended at about the same time throughout the *gobierno* of Nueva España, in districts where urban demand for wheat and the resulting pressures on Indian lands were no greater than in the Guadalajara region, as well as in the Valley of Mexico. That Nueva Galicia had its own audiencia to administer the *repartimientos* there allowed for a history of draft labor that could be somewhat different from central and southern Mexico under Mexico City's Audiencia of Nueva España.

The long-term patterns discerned in *Hacienda and Market* are valuable benchmarks for future studies of regional land systems, rural estates, and colonial markets. As the author recognizes, however, the depersonalized *longue durée* rarely is a sufficient explanation for the dramatic events of Mexico's social and political history. In the conclusion, the author wisely stops short of asserting that the changing economic relationships he detects in the agrarian structure, especially the impoverishment of country people generally and the “depeasantization” of Indians can explain the substantial support in central Jalisco for Hidalgo's social war for independence.

Students of early Latin American history will use this book often for

its solid, clearly presented findings and for its many ideas about specific economic and social changes. It is an admirable step beyond all previous regional studies of land systems and economic change.

University of Virginia

WILLIAM B. TAYLOR

*Studies in Spanish American Population History.* Edited by DAVID J. ROBINSON. Boulder: Westview Press, 1981. Map. Tables. Figures. Notes. Index. Pp. xxi, 274. \$20.00.

Students of Latin American demographic history wait for the Dellplain Series to appear—looking for suggestive ideas, fresh methodological applications, as well as for substantive findings. A new collection of ten essays, edited by Robinson, brings under a single cover revised papers already presented at professional meetings or specially commissioned for this book. These papers appear only two years after they were discussed, which by current publication standards is fast. Credit should be given for this to the editor of the series.

These essays stretch over Spanish America and span the entire colonial period. Geographically and chronologically disparate as they are, four major themes seem to run through the book. A basic concern among historians over what source they rely on can be first found. Lombardi looks at the demographic data not for what they tell about the population itself, but from the viewpoint of why and how the imperial state generated these records. B. Evans then offers a glimpse of his pending study of one of the major censuses taken in the seventeenth century, the *numeración general* of Peru by Viceroy la Plata. Taken at a crucial moment, and also because of its wide coverage and the controversies it then stirred, the *numeración* still requires a thorough appraisal. The J. and J. Villamarín team discusses in particular the annual (late seventeenth to eighteenth centuries) tributary count, of Bogotá they found. Although tributaries may not be representative in a fixed degree of the overall population, nevertheless, demographic short variations and local trends clearly come out of these summaries. One wonders with hope if similar counts exist for other parts of the Viceroyalty of Peru.

Temporal sequences elsewhere are also studied in the book. Central America is the subject of three chapters dealing with such issues. L. Newson describes how the aboriginal population declined in Honduras after the conquest. G. Levell gives a general step-by-step profile of the population of the Cuchumatán Highlands and G. Lutz provides a locally