

## BOOK NOTICES

Initialed notices were written by members of the editorial staff.

*Supplement to the Handbook of Middle American Indians. Volume One. Archaeology.* VICTORIA REIFLER BRICKER, General Editor. JEREMY A. SABLOFF, Volume Editor, with the assistance of PATRICIA A. ANDREWS. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1982. Illustrations. Tables. Maps. Notes. Figures. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xii, 463. Cloth. \$55.00.

Students and scholars of Mesoamerican archaeology have long awaited this volume, which reports the major achievements in the field since volumes II and III of the *Handbook of Middle American Indians* were published in 1965. To the volume editor's credit, he selected a broad and exemplary sample of archaeological projects and asked their directors not only to summarize their findings, but also to evaluate how their conclusions have furthered our understanding of Mesoamerican prehistory. An introductory commentary by Gordon R. Willey precedes these ten summary reports. The concluding three chapters discuss some of the major theoretical issues in contemporary Mesoamerican archaeology: the origins of sedentary village life, the evolution of complex societies, and the rise of cities.

As a whole, the volume reflects the growing importance of problem-oriented research in Mesoamerican archaeology. The interdisciplinary, multileveled research designs of many of the contributors include significant theoretical and methodological innovations in their own right. Chief among them is the adoption of a regional perspective, evident in the Tehuacán Archaeological-Botanical Project (chap. 2), the Oaxaca Valley Prehistory and Human Ecology Project (chap. 3), the Valley of Oaxaca Settlement Pattern Project (chap. 4), the Basin of Mexico Settlement Survey Project (chap. 6), and the Tlaxcala-Puebla investigations (chap. 8). In particular, the research design sections of chapter 3 ("The Preceramic and Formative of the Valley of Oaxaca" by Kent V. Flannery, Joyce Marcus, and Stephen A. Kowalewski) should be required reading for students of New World and Old World archaeology alike.

Equally significant are the community-level investigations of some of Mesoamerica's preeminent regional centers. They include the early Olmec center at San Lorenzo (chap. 5), the Central Mexican capitals of Teotihuacán (chap. 7) and Tula (chap. 9), and the great lowland Maya centers of Tikal (chap. 10) and Dzibilchaltun (chap. 11). René Millon, director of the Teotihuacán Mapping Project, contributes a particularly comprehensive and illuminating summary of the internal organization of that extraordinary city and of the processes responsible for the emergence and demise of the Teotihuacán state. Of the three final topical syntheses, Barbara L. Stark's discussion of the rise of sedentary life in Mesoamerica (chap. 12) is the most comprehensive and the least redundant upon conclusions presented in the individual research reports.

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*Spanish City Planning in North America.* By DORA P. CROUCH, DANIEL J. GARR, and AXEL I. MUNDIGO. Foreword by GEORGE KUBLER. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1982. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxii, 298. Cloth. \$35.00.

This is a \$35.00 committee-report-got-up-to-look-like-a-book, by an urban sociologist (Mundigo), a planning historian (Garr), and an architectural historian (Crouch). Enhanced

by George Kubler's 400-word foreword and several groupings of apt illustrations, the text is divided into three parts.

The first (pp. 1–65), mostly by Mundigo, presents a translation of 57 of the 148 “Ordenanzas de descubrimiento, nueva población y pacificación de las Indias” of Philip II (1573) and a commentary, neither of which betrays a particularly firm grasp of Spanish colonial institutions. Until now, the authors proclaim (p. xviii), the only access in English to the document has been a partial and inadequate translation in “an obscure periodical”—the *Hispanic American Historical Review*.

Getting down to cases, the second part (pp. 66–188), mostly by Crouch, treats “Three American Cities”: Santa Fe, St. Louis, and Los Angeles. I found Santa Fe in such disarray—built on uncritical use of limited materials, indiscriminate mixing of data from different periods, and omission—that I only skimmed St. Louis and Los Angeles. “Disintegration in California,” 1769–1850 (pp. 189–283), the last and best part, draws on Garr’s 1971 Cornell dissertation.

More revealing than funny is the authors’ acknowledgment (p. xiv): “To all those who might have granted us awards to pursue these studies but didn’t.”

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*Drug Control in the Americas.* By WILLIAM O. WALKER III. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982. Tables. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 287. Cloth. \$25.00.

If it is true that important individuals are often notable by their absence, it is equally obvious that certain topics are noteworthy because they are ignored by scholars. Such is the case with the international politics of narcotics. Before the efforts of Arnold Taylor and David Musto, there were virtually no historical analyses of United States drug diplomacy. Before the publication of this work, there was really no history in English or Spanish of United States–Latin American narcopolitics. William Walker has thus filled a scholarly void, at least in part.

The first half of this book should have been reduced substantially, as much of the material, its manner of presentation notwithstanding, is repetitious of previous studies. Contrariwise, the chapters treating Latin American drug traffic during the interwar period are for the most part refreshingly original. Walker’s analysis of United States–Mexican narcopolitics is particularly impressive and well documented. Much the same may be said for his brief, original descriptions of the Honduran drug scene in the 1930s and the formalistic, wholly ineffective control efforts by Peruvian and Bolivian authorities.

Students of contemporary international drug problems will note several disturbingly familiar themes emerging from this study: (1) Washington’s fixation on the punitive approach to drug abuse and its pique with those countries that do not follow suit; (2) the futility of interdiction in the face of smuggling ingenuity and the resultant calls to “cut it off at the foreign source”; (3) the inability of Latin American states, with or without Washington’s assistance, seriously to curtail growing abuse patterns that predate the colonial period; (4) possible linkages between traffickers and rural revolutionaries; and (5) corruption, violence, and abject poverty, then as now the *sine qua non* of *narcotráfico*.

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