

conomic, and political change in a highly conservative and religious region. The first three chapters survey the agrarian history of Lagos de Moreno from the colonial period. By the end of the nineteenth century, large landholdings had emerged as had a landed aristocracy. Extensive tables reveal the precise size of these large haciendas in the Porfiriato, but, regretfully, the data are not well integrated into the text. The revolution, however, brought little or no change to this landowner-dominated *municipio*. Only in the 1920s did *agrarismo* emerge from within a group of skilled craftsmen and white-collar workers struggling to form a small trade union and subsequently to forge an alliance with middle peasants petitioning for land. The singular importance of urban leadership here seems to be related to the relative marginality of the region from the revolution and the repressive nature of the landowning class, particularly during the Cristero revolt. Yet outside political alliances were always a necessity from the 1920s, when Governor Guadalupe Zuno sent municipal presidents as popular organizers, through the Cárdenas era. The author must admit that the rise of *agrarismo* “is principally a chronicle of campesino power growing in tandem with the expansion of state power, and then declining with the consolidation of the state’s power and the satisfaction of the agraristas’ demands for land” (p. 11).

The remaining two chapters recount the political biographies of José Romero Gómez and eight community leaders based on in-depth interviews conducted by the author. These *agraristas* held certain characteristics in common: an awakened desire for change, an ardent yearning to possess the fruits of their own labor, certain basic literary skills, and residency in the United States.

For several reasons this work goes far beyond being a simple case study. Important statistical data have been uncovered in the *Manifestaciones prediales de 1900* and the *Catastro antiguo, 1900–47* on land tenure and land values. This information could be invaluable for a study of the socioeconomic structure of the landowning class. The author has also ably integrated into her analysis of peasant leadership most of the recent literature on Third World peasant movements. Finally, she has painstakingly explained the legal land reform process for the general reader in one of the appendixes.

The First Agraristas is first and foremost a human story about real people recounted through their own words. It is a narrative about individual struggle rather than an analysis of a social movement, but this gives it its charm. Few books on peasant movements have brought the personal aspects of agrarian struggle out so poignantly for the general reader.

Bradley University

HEATHER FOWLER SALAMINI

Life in Provincial Mexico: National and Regional History Seen from Mascota, Jalisco, 1867–1972. By CARLOS B. GIL. Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American

Center, 1983. Maps. Charts. Notes. Graphs. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvii, 220. Cloth. \$20.00.

This volume joins the groundswell of historical studies that views Mexican history from the local level and to some extent from the underside of society. Gil develops his perspective from the *municipio* of Mascota and the *cabecera* of the same name, a hundred miles due west of Guadalajara. The town has a current population of approximately 6,000, and the *municipio* contains just over 15,000 inhabitants. It is a mountainous district and until a half century ago was very isolated.

The author divides his study into three parts: the Porfiriato and the revolution; the presidency of Lázaro Cárdenas; and the decade of the 1970s. He focuses attention on such matters as health, land ownership, education, and social patterns as he ranges up and down the social ladder to include *arrieros*, peons, storekeepers, and hacendados as his subjects. Frequently he contrasts the Mascota story with those of other areas of Mexico. He makes no claim that Mascota is necessarily representative of Mexico's provinces, wisely pointing out that no definitive judgments are possible until more studies of other locales can be written.

Curiously, he pays little attention to the influence of religion in the lives of Mascotans and, except for one paragraph, he ignores the institution of the church and the role priests might or might not have played in influencing provincial society during the century under study. This neglect, relating to a state that was a seedbed of religious rebellion in the 1920s, leaves an unfortunate gap.

One could also wish that the author had given more attention to the revolutionary period from 1910 to 1917. How many Mascotans left to join the ranks of the various factions, and to which factions did they adhere? Only one combatant, a son of a local merchant, receives notice. Was he the only one who fought? And if there were others, did they return or go elsewhere after the wars? If they returned, why did they not serve as agents of change?

Gil's book is not political history. Rather it is more an analysis of social, cultural, and economic patterns set against the background of political events. Sometimes the patterns are affected to some degree by the larger, distant, "national" events; at other times, Mascota seems to have been immune. The author proposes that for the isolated district there were two periods of major change: the Spanish conquest of the sixteenth century and the Porfiriato of the late nineteenth. The Mexican Revolution of 1910 did not profoundly affect the *municipio* and its people. An all-weather road finally came in the 1930s; and some redistribution of lands, although requested by the citizens in the early 1920s, was not implemented until the Cárdenas administration.

Life in Provincial Mexico is firmly based on archival sources and documents generated locally and regionally; in addition, it draws on interviews with Mascota citizens over a six-year period. There are abundant tables and graphs that enhance

the well-written text. It is a valuable addition to the growing microhistorical literature on Mexico.

Wright State University

CHARLES R. BERRY

Impacts of Mexican Oil Policy on Economic and Political Development. By JESÚS-AGUSTÍN VELASCO-S. Foreword by WILLIAM W. HOGAN. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1983. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xviii, 237. Cloth.

The author sets for himself the Herculean task of studying and analyzing “the impacts of Mexican oil policy on economic and political development, its potentialities, challenges, and dangers resulting from the emergence of Mexico as a major world oil producer” (p. 1).

This generally well documented volume provides useful information about Mexico’s petroleum industry. Especially valuable are the thirty-seven tables that embrace data on Mexico’s oil reserves, refining exports, imports, dollar earnings, customers, and so forth. Also helpful are the descriptions of governmental initiatives, ranging from the National Energy Plan to the Mexican Food System to the San José agreement for aiding nations of the Caribbean basin, launched during the administration of President José López Portillo (1976–82). Additionally, Velasco, makes an interesting and well-developed comparison of the Caribbean–Central American and the Persian Gulf regions (pp. 125–128).

Although describing important elements of Mexican energy policy, the book falls short of its ambitious goal. To begin with, in converting a doctoral thesis into a book, the author has failed to prune material that is either marginal or extraneous to his subject. Exemplary of this tendency is the breakdown of where the Palestinians live throughout the Mideast (p. 134) included in a chapter on “Mexico’s International Perspective.” Furthermore, clichés and bromides are often substituted for analysis. For instance, we are told that: “As oil makes Mexico an increasingly important actor in the region, the intensity of its involvement will challenge Mexican leaders to find effective paths through the jungles of international relations” (p. 127).

An even more serious problem is the readiness of Velasco, an advisor to the Mexican government, to view the United States as a predator, eager to despoil its cornucopia-shaped neighbor of its oil patrimony. He argues that there are “vital lessons for Mexico in the tragedy of Iran” because (1) the CIA helped return the shah to power, (2) the United States identified closely with the shah’s repressive regime, (3) the Pentagon converted Iran into a regional military bastion, and (4) Washington turned a blind eye to the social and economic inequities besetting the Iranian people (pp. 133–134). While true about Iran, these policies bear little or