

Bolívar en la historia del pensamiento económico y fiscal. By TOMÁS ENRIQUE CARRILLO BATALLA. Caracas: Academia Nacional de Historia, 1984. Sources. Notes. Tables. Indexes. Pp. 283. Paper.

This is the 43rd volume of the Venezuelan Academy of History's "Estudios, biografías y ensayos" series. Its contents are an expanded outgrowth of the author's two lectures presented in February and March 1984, during the bicentennial celebrations held by Venezuela's academies in honor of the Liberator.

The work is divided into two parts, each with considerable textual material. In the first, Carrillo Batalla attempts to examine Bolívar's economic thought in the light of modern economic theory. In the second, the Liberator's place in the history of economic thought is postulated. The author concludes that Bolívar believed in an activist state, sought to avoid economic fluctuations, and sought to promote economic development. He further asserts that ". . . Bolívar coincide más con [Michal] Kalecki [1899–1970] y [Oskar] Lange [1904–1965] que con los clásicos . . ." (p. 10), a thesis, which, while it might gladden the hearts of certain Polish nationalists, I find difficult to swallow.

If anything, Simón Bolívar was a pragmatist, eager to advance his cause with such economic resources as he could generate. He brooked no opposition to his army's ever-increasing demands, and, whatever his pronouncements, recognized the essential dependence of Spanish America's economies on Britain and other North Atlantic industrial powers.

It is one thing to anachronize Bolívar to fit fashionable economic models; it is another to ignore historical data. For example, Carrillo Batalla is generous—though not always accurate—in his references to David Bushnell's carefully crafted *Santander Regime in Gran Colombia* (1954; Spanish edition, 1965); yet he is constant in avoiding its evidence. As a result, Francisco de Paula Santander remains, for him, the wrecker of Bolívar's responsible fiscal husbandry (see, among others, pp. 209, 225, 266, and 268). To revive this canard serves little positive purpose.

These criticisms (as well as a fervent wish that more diligent proofreading had been done) aside, the book, because much of it is really an annotated commentary on Gran Colombian fiscal legislation, is a convenient-if-uneven documentary collection. It is also graced by an essay on sources and bibliography.

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Índice de prensa colombiana, 1840–1890: Periódicos existentes en la Biblioteca Central. Prepared by JESÚS ÁLVAREZ and MARÍA TERESA URIBE DE H. Medellín: Universidad de Antioquia, 1984. Illustrations. Indexes. Pp. vii, 240. Paper.

This useful guide to nineteenth-century newspapers, catalogued in the Biblioteca Central of the Universidad de Antioquia, serves equally well for the major holdings of the Biblioteca Nacional or the Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango in Bogotá. The volume is arranged in three parts. The first addresses the utility of using the press as a source of sociohistorical information and the particular problems and rewards facing researchers in newspapers from nineteenth-century Colombia. The second part describes the structure of the index. The final part is the index itself, which is a model for others of this type. Arranging it alphabetically, the authors have included data on the editors of each paper, when and how frequently it was published, the political tendency of the paper, its general content (i.e., politics, literary or regional information, or ecclesiastical news), and its central theme. If the editors of the papers engaged in polemics with other papers, the antagonistic counterparts are included as well. The volume concludes with an index to the guide, under the headings of chronology, regions, names, political tendencies, themes, and collaborators. Researchers will find the *Índice de prensa colombiana* a helpful supplement to Antonio Cacia Prada's *Historia del periodismo colombiano*.

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Rafael Núñez and the Politics of Colombian Regionalism, 1863–1886. By JAMES WILLIAM PARK. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1985. Map. Tables. Figure. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xii, 304. Cloth. \$35.00.

Park's intent is to present the rise and disintegration of the Liberal party during the second half of Colombia's nineteenth century, and to explain how provincial politics intervened in the Liberal-Conservative attempts to gain control of political power and keep it. The two points are viewed through the national political activities of one of the most controversial men in the country's history, the Cartagenero Rafael Núñez.

Unquestionably, the author has fulfilled his goals. He has presented methodically the chronology of the events, giving the necessary background to men, ideas and problems of the period. Park obviously did extensive research in Colombian public and private archives, finding references to the political game played from the 1860s to the 1880s.

I have, however, reservations about the work. In the first place, the chapter on Colombian federalism adds little to what we already knew. Park has accepted the usual interpretation of the origins and development of the federal idea; yet, when he ventured on his own (pp. 23–24), he showed little appreciation for the forces encountered between the colonial heritage and the early Herculean efforts made to create a nation. This chapter also brings up the question of how much