

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*.

Fort Hays State University

DAVID SOWELL

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

emphasis and credence we should place on coeval descriptions and analyses in making our own assessments (pp. 26–28). At times, Park relies too heavily on interpretations given by nineteenth-century politicians and journalists.

Unquestionably, the author ended up liking Núñez. However, liking a person dictates impartiality, or at least unassailable arguments, which are not always present. For instance, Park attempts to quash the rumors of Núñez's self-interest in his marriage with Dolores Gallegos (pp. 77–78). But, at the age of 26, how substantial were Núñez's political assets? By Colombian standards, he had no oligarchical standing, which he acquired precisely through his marriage and his active support of José de Obaldía. Additionally, the author takes Charles W. Bergquist to task for his economic interpretation of the rise and fall of the Liberals. Yet Park also emphasizes (p. 196) economic conditions as a factor in the promotion of the political changes Núñez advocated.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of Park's study is that he failed to assess Núñez's actions, leaving us again with partisan interpretations. For example, the complex nature of Núñez's personality is never explored, and Park merely mentions his "uncertainty and skepticism" (p. 80), while giving two stanzas of the famous "Que sais-je?" Throughout the study, the author bypassed opportunities to analyze Núñez's actions and to explore the reasons for and significance of his political activities. Núñez is portrayed as a paladin of the Conservative restoration and the parties' reconciliation (pp. 214–215), but the constitutional dictatorship imposed by the Regeneration (p. 270) is left without analysis.

Núñez deserved more and better. After all, what he did in Colombian politics was unique, and to this date no one has dared to defy the country's political culture as the *costeño* did.

Northeastern Illinois University

J. IGNACIO MÉNDEZ

The Assassination of Gaitán: Public Life and Urban Violence in Colombia. By HERBERT BRAUN. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1986. Map. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiii, 282. Cloth. \$32.50.

Most Colombians regard Jorge Eliécer Gaitán as a pivotal figure in their nation's history, whose assassination on April 9, 1948 irrevocably changed the course of events in the twentieth century. The dramatic career of this maverick Liberal, his tragic murder, and the ensuing riot known as the Bogotazo that destroyed much of downtown Bogotá have spawned voluminous literature in Spanish, but for many years failed to capture the attention of scholars writing in English. In 1978, Richard Sharpless published the first full-length Gaitán biography in English based on an exhaustive review of his personal archives. Now Colombian-born Herbert Braun expands the analysis by examining Gaitán's life and the