

these systems were quite distinct. Each country adopted a strategy which (except for the Nicaraguan case) led to eventual relative advantages in land and labor (Guatemala), processing (Costa Rica), or production (El Salvador). Yet the coffee elites did not uniformly dominate the economy and politics. Paige's analysis challenges many assertions about labor, the economy, and political power made or implied by others. Eckstein supports the assertion that the Castro revolution fundamentally altered both the class structure and the relations between the individual and the state in Cuba, but that a higher degree of employment and a more egalitarian wealth distribution than elsewhere in the Americas have not insulated the population from the general economic problems of the region.

Apart from these two essays, very little is new or challenging to specialists. The introduction is often outrageously controversial, stating, for example, that the Caribbean region is "wracked by crises" tied to "the distribution of wealth and power," to the "political and economic relations with the United States," and to "the global capitalist order" (p. 9) and that "the Jamaican and Dominican employment crises . . . are related intimately to the history of colonialism and neocolonialism" (p. 19). Equating general problems with perpetual crises certainly does not contribute to our understanding of the contemporary reality of the Caribbean states.

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*La locura de Epifanio y otros ensayos.* By HUMBERTO ROSSELLI. Bogotá: Ediciones Tercer Mundo, 1987. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 307. Paper.

How a given society perceives madness has been increasingly used as a social litmus. Colombia is no exception. There, the treatment of the mentally ill has had an uneven development, going back (as far as systematized modern medical protocol is concerned) no more than the past 70 years.

Colombian psychiatry has found its chronicler in Humberto Rosselli. Two decades ago, he presented us with his *Historia de la psiquiatría en Colombia*. The present volume is a collection of 16 articles and essays written over the past 20 years by Rosselli on madness, madmen, medical aspects of military history, and physicians and psychiatrists who lent their professional talents to curing the insane in Colombia. The period covered ranges from pre-Columbian times to the present stage of the *Violencia* (urban terrorism).

Space does not permit more than a cursory listing of the essays contained in "La locura de Epifanio," the title piece of the book and its longest item. It is an examination of the mental illness of Epifanio Mejía (1838–1913), the gifted Antioquian bard whose manic depression caused him to spend the last half of his life in the Medellín asylum. Next is a piece which treats the marijuana addiction of Porfirio Barba Jacob (Miguel Ángel Osorio, 1883–1942), another famed Antioquian

poet. Then follow two studies on Sigmund Freud: one traces his Hispanism and initial impact on Colombia, the other discusses Freud's strange omission of the Egyptian Pharaoh Akhenaton in his *Moses and Monotheism*.

The remaining ten articles deal more directly with Colombian medical and psychiatric history. Distilled from 20 years of study, they are of special interest and utility. There is some unavoidable repetition, notably in the two which examine medical aspects of the War of Independence, but this aside, the student of Colombian social history will find a rich harvest of information in this modestly titled but well-documented small tome which neatly complements Rosselli's earlier two-volume work.

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*Vísperas de la independencia americana: Caracas.* By MANUEL LUCENA SALMORAL. Madrid: Editorial Alhambra, 1986. Notes. Tables. Pp. 389. Paper.

This work, written by a distinguished *catedrático* at the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares, is one of the most significant books to be published on late colonial Venezuela. It is perhaps an appropriate capstone to a career of study and writing on colonial Gran Colombia that now spans three decades. The study does not plow new, uncharted territory, but is rather the best single volume of compilation and synthesis of what we do know about the province of Caracas in the period immediately preceding the Declaration of Independence on July 5, 1811. It is both an indication of the considerable progress that has been made by historians of this long-neglected colony and of how far we yet have to go before fully understanding the complexity of late colonial Venezuela.

The work is conveniently divided into three large sections, each followed by a conclusion which supports the author's central thesis: preexisting tensions, exacerbated by Napoleon Bonaparte's invasion of the Iberian Peninsula, set the stage for a preemptive *golpe de estado* by the Caracas landed elite to ward off control by the French and their representatives. Thus, in the historiographical debate between those who believe the initial steps toward independence in Caracas in April 1810 were those of dynamic revolutionaries, and those who see them as designed primarily to obtain autonomy from Spain and France, Lucena places himself firmly in the latter camp.

In the three sections of the book the author details the population and social structure, production, and commerce for the period from the establishment of the captaincy-general in 1777 to the initial separation from Spain in 1811. Colonial Venezuelan society was dominated by a small planter elite that was increasingly pressured by, at first, the efforts of the monarchy to impose control over the colony, and, later, the increasing influence of French-inspired ideals which in the author's eyes were anathema to leading Caraqueños. An impressive overview of economic production, which comprises the second section, summarizes our knowledge of