

attempt to install a European prince undermined the war effort against the United States. It also opened the door for the return of Santa Anna, and Mexico was left to fight the war alone.

Soto, in a final section, discusses why historians on both sides of the border have neglected this slice of Mexican history or have ignored the role of Spain in the conspiracy. After pointing out that the experiences of 1845–46 would be repeated two decades later, he notes that Juárez and Díaz adopted centralism in order to unite and govern the country.

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*La clase obrera en la historia de México*. Vol. 7. *En el interinato de Adolfo de la Huerta y el gobierno de Álvaro Obregón (1920–1924)*. By JAIME TAMAYO. Mexico City: Siglo Veintiuno Editores, 1987. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 302. Paper.

In the early 1920s, urban and rural labor leaders opted for a role in the as-yet-unconsolidated Mexican state, rejecting the potential for independent action. Tamayo's solid contribution to the 17-volume series edited by Pablo González Casanova chronicles those years, providing no new hypothesis, but showing more clearly than before how these choices were made.

Using extensive secondary sources and newspaper accounts, Tamayo describes the origins, structure, ideology, and institutional relationships of the major labor organizations of the day. Among the latter, the most important were the collaborating Regional Confederation of Mexican Workers, the faction-ridden, anarcho-syndicalist General Confederation of Workers, and the proclerical, Bolshevik-bashing National Catholic Labor Confederation. Tamayo also provides thin but badly needed coverage of labor's relations with important regional caudillos in Veracruz, Jalisco, Tabasco, and Yucatán. Useful as well, if frustratingly brief, is Tamayo's overview of industrial working conditions. More comprehensive is the author's look at labor in the major industries, which, however, does not replace standard works by Marcelo Rodea (railroads), Ramón Ruiz (textiles), Majorie Ruth Clark's earlier overview, or even *memorias* by former labor leaders (Araiza, Huitrón, Salazar), most of which Tamayo uses extensively.

Readers looking for broad social history, or interested in the complexities clustered around Mexican economic transformation and the social relations of production will be disappointed. Tamayo like most other authors in this important series, by limiting himself to a particular administration, ensures a political and institutional emphasis, leaving labor's socioeconomic history virtually untapped. Further, the author ignores most foreign work (unless translated into Spanish), omitting Hall's article on Obregón's agrarian policy and Carr's study of the origins

of the Mexican Communist party (whose labor activities received little attention from Tamayo).

On balance, however, Tamayo has done solid work. Moreover, because he is familiar with all sectors of Mexico's labor history scholarship, Tamayo's bibliography is useful in itself. Despite his focus, Tamayo has written the most wide-ranging account to date of the labor movement in those critical years.

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*Sembraron la no siembra: Los cosecheros de tabaco puertorriqueños frente a las corporaciones tabacaleras, 1920–1934.* By JUAN JOSÉ BALDRICH. Río Piedras: Ediciones Huracán, 1988. Graphs. Table. Map. Pp. 194. Paper.

*Sembraron la no siembra* is a historical account of the boycott of tobacco production by Puerto Rican landowners in 1931. The author effectively combines oral history with newspaper accounts and police reports to describe the circumstances that pitted a segment of tobacco producers against the U.S. corporations which controlled warehousing, distribution, and export.

The book is well written. The author writes with a certain passion that impels the reader to go on. Particular attention is given to the local economic conditions that led to the unrest, and ultimately violence, and the political ties that were forged to counteract the economic might of the corporations. Support by the colonial state insulated the corporations from direct attack, so the brunt of the violence was aimed at smaller producers in surrounding areas. Among the most interesting aspects of this work is the description of the regionalization of tobacco production in Puerto Rico. Support for the boycott came from the tobacco haciendas, where the cooperative movement was strongest.

The book's only weak part is its assessment of the effects of the boycott. The author uses rather crude statistical techniques to examine particular trends among variables. However, it is inappropriate to suggest causal relations based on simple correlation coefficients. The statistical analysis simply detracts from the more convincing descriptive analysis. The author claims that the boycott reduced tobacco production significantly. This may be so, but the evidence is not conclusive. Only if the price elasticity of supply is zero can we attribute most of the precipitous decline in output to the boycott. It is likely that many producers simply reduced output and moved into other lines of production in response to the price decline. But these minor critiques do not detract from a worthwhile contribution to Puerto Rican economic history.

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