

composition or its relationship to the larger economy. In their introductory essay to this timely group research effort, editors Juan Pablo Pérez Sáinz and Rafael Menjívar Larín observe that heretofore most descriptions of the informal economy have been either intuitive or based on unsystematically gathered, anecdotal evidence. A more rigorous approach to the problem has long been in order, and it is now offered here. This volume includes, in addition to the editors' overview, case studies of Guatemala City by Pérez Sáinz, San Salvador by Carlos Briones, Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula by Rafael del Cid, San José by Juan Diego Trejos, and Managua by Amalia Chamorro, Mario Chávez, and Marcos Membreño.

As the subtitle suggests, the project seeks to contribute to the debate over the nature and function of the informal economy. Is it simply a "refuge of poverty," offering subsistence-level, menial employment to surplus labor that the formal sector cannot accommodate? Or is it a benevolent, regulation-free environment in which petty entrepreneurs are free to create "microenterprises," fostering the accumulation of capital (especially human capital, in the form of trained, experienced workers) for national development? The results of the inquiry are inconclusive, because the data presented demonstrate, more than anything, the broadly heterogeneous nature of the informal sector. The microenterprises of neoliberal fantasy do exist, and many persons now employed in the informal economy have chosen it voluntarily as a means of upward mobility; but dead-end subsistence activities have been the real experience of many others.

Dryly presented and technical in nature, this volume is not addressed to the general reader, but it constitutes an important document for the modern history of Central America. Although specialists may find cause for specific criticism in the authors' methods or conclusions, the book is also testimony to the growing sophistication of social science in the region. At a minimum, these studies convey the need for caution on the part of area governments, which, moved by faith in a priori models, have undertaken policy initiatives designed to promote the informal economy.

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Cuban Studies 21. Edited by LOUIS A. PÉREZ, JR. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1991. Tables. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. 316 pp. Cloth. \$39.95.

Cuban Studies has changed editors but maintained a tradition of providing a comprehensive survey of the field. The eight core articles of volume 21 and the four articles in the debate section cover a variety of topics and less frequently researched time periods. The articles are characterized by the use of new sources, the treatment of often-neglected issues, and a historical perspective.

Susan Fernández' contribution, "The Money and Credit Crisis in Late Colonial Cuba," examines the collapse of colonial rule by analyzing the alliance of

financial institutions with the Spanish state at the expense of Cuban planters. This contributed to an economic crisis, and encouraged Cuban planters to develop relationships with North American capitalists who could supply funds that Spanish institutions could not.

Louis Pérez' "Cuba and the United States: Origins and Antecedents of Relations, 1760–1860s" argues that Cuban-U.S. economic relations were established in the eighteenth century, when Spain was increasingly unable to meet the economic and trade needs of the Cuban colony. Using both statistical and travelers' accounts, Pérez traces the growing influence of the United States on Cuba's economic and social life.

Gerald Poyo places Cuban communities in the United States in historical perspective. In "The Cuban Experience in the United States, 1865–1940," he points out that Cuban migration to the United States, fallaciously perceived as a twentieth-century phenomenon, began in the nineteenth century as the developing world economy displaced Cuban workers. These job-seeking, forced migrants, many of them radicalized, were committed to Cuban independence. They underwent a transition from exiles to immigrants identified with the United States as Cuba won its independence from Spain.

Ada Ferrer's article, "Social Aspects of Cuban Nationalism: Race, Slavery, and the Guerra Chiquita, 1879–1880," addresses issues of race and racism in that war; and develops a more nuanced understanding of the processes of independence and the social construction of race and nation than that provided in traditional histories.

Aline Helg, in "Afro-Cuban Protest: The Partido Independiente de Color," employs seldom-used sources, such as the party's newspaper, *Previsión*, to analyze incisively the development and destruction of this early twentieth-century Afro-Cuban political party, as well as elite manipulations of race. Along with Carlos Moore's *Castro, the Blacks, and Africa* (1988), which is thoroughly discussed in the debate section by Lisa Brock and Otis Cunningham, the articles by Ferrer and Helg highlight the significance of the social construction of race in Latin America and how much work is still needed on the topic. All the contributions in volume 21 ignite an interest in the possibility of further work by the authors and reaffirm the fecundity of Cuban studies.

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The Making of Haiti: The Saint Domingue Revolution from Below. By CAROLYN E. FICK. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1990. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xv, 355 pp. Cloth. \$44.95.

Primarily political in approach, this major study of the Haitian Revolution of 1789–1803 has two unusual features. First, it focuses on the black masses' struggles for emancipation and independence, according secondary importance to develop-