

summary of commerce and colonization of the Americas by European nations from the sixteenth through the early nineteenth century. In the process, the author traces the changing power relations in Europe that saw Spanish dominance succeeded by that of France and then England. The long series of wars dominated by Anglo-French rivalry in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries resulted in the ultimate triumph of England by 1815, though the North American colonies were lost in the process. In that same series of wars, Spanish power was ruined, setting the stage for the independence of Spain's American colonies as well.

In the new world order that emerged between the nineteenth century and the present, steam-powered ships and massive transatlantic migration and trade reinforced the common bonds of the Atlantic world, despite the strains of war, revolution, and global commerce. In the aftermath of the Cold War, Céspedes argues, all the individuals and governments of the Atlantic rim must accept collective responsibility to maintain and preserve the ocean that binds them together. Their common history is also their common destiny. Based on broad reading in history and popular science, this is a book designed for the educated reading public of the Spanish-speaking world. Academic specialists will find little that is new here, but the book's broad vision is ideally suited for the goals of MAPFRE's Quincentennial series.

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The Atlantic Slave Trade: Effects on Economies, Societies, and Peoples in Africa, the Americas, and Europe. Edited by JOSEPH E. INIKORI and STANLEY L. ENGERMAN. Durham: Duke University Press, 1992. Maps. Graphs. Tables. Notes. Index. vi, 412 pp. Cloth, \$45.00. Paper, \$17.95.

The essays in this volume arise from a conference on the Atlantic slave trade held at the University of Rochester in 1988. Most of the prominent scholars of the Atlantic slave trade in North America were present, although not all contributed to this book. Of the contributions, 9 of the 14 have already been published in *Social Science History*. Three of the other 5 are drawn from (or elaborated from) monographs now in print. So while readers will find it convenient to have all these papers under one cover, they will find very little in this volume that is genuinely new. Readers of the *HAHR*, moreover, will be disappointed to find virtually no reference to Hispanic America or to Spain. The book also has a good index, no bibliography, and a shortage of maps.

The volume is divided into three parts, preceded by a general introduction written by Inikori and Engerman. The introduction aims to identify gainers and losers from the slave trade, and ends with the unsurprising conclusion that in net terms Europe and North America benefited and tropical Africa lost. Latin America is not considered. The assessment and the accounting methods will be familiar to readers of Inikori's work (cited 18 times in the first nine pages here).

Part 1 deals with slavery and the slave trade in Africa. It includes four pieces, treating the Western Sudan, the abolition question in Northern Nigeria, the Angolan trade, and demographic impacts across Africa. These pieces are the work of accomplished Africanists, and they present an unsentimental vision of the subject. Part 2 features four chapters devoted to the proposition that slavery and the slave trade provided capital and other advantages that assisted either Britain or New England in achieving industrialization or simply economic growth. Each is a gloss on the Eric Williams thesis of a half-century ago. Curiously, Engerman, who has argued against this view, is left out: part 2 is unanimous.

Part 3 is a grab bag, with chapters on the Dutch slave trade, Antigua in the 1720s, dehydration as a cause of death on the Middle Passage, salt retention as an essential for survival on that passage, and finally the relationship between abolition and racism in Britain and France. The piece on the Dutch slave trade by J. Postma touches on Spanish America briefly but still more than any other chapter in this book; greater detail is available in Postma's monograph *The Dutch in Atlantic Slave Trade, 1600–1815* (1990). The two chapters on dehydration and salt retention complement each other well and offer a new vision of the Middle Passage; they are the most original contributions in the book. Biologically informed history of this sort provides more new insight than any of the other approaches in the volume, and promises a "usable past" in the sense that health problems today (such as hypertension among descendants of Middle Passage survivors) may prove easier to confront with a knowledge of relevant history.

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Ilustración y derecho: los fiscales del Consejo de Castilla en el siglo XVIII. By SANTOS M. CORONAS GONZÁLEZ. Madrid: Ministerio para las Administraciones Públicas, 1992. Illustrations. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. 549 pp. Paper.

The first obvious problem with this book is its uncomfortably large format. At 10 by 12 inches, and in paperback, it is unwieldy. More than half the volume, moreover, consists of a documentary appendix of laws and other texts by eighteenth-century legists, printed in full solemnity (with their original footnotes in Latin, for instance), that could more digestibly have been incorporated into the body of the book. The publication was issued by a government ministry, which no doubt liked the sonorous roll of nearly three hundred pages of official administrative prose. A final problem of presentation, small but nonetheless irritating, is the regular misspelling of words in languages other than Castilian, which one might charitably attribute to deficient proofreading were it not for the consistency of the misspelling. In German, for example, we are offered *Aufklerung* and *europäische Privatrechtgeschinchte*.

Once these obstacles are overcome, the book emerges as an acceptable and thoroughly straightforward summary of recent historical work on the Council of