

and Spaniards and among ethnic communities. Echoing Eric Van Young's earlier work, Jiménez finds that Indian pueblos most tenaciously defended the *monte* of woodlands and pastures and opposed hacendados' claims to this land, even while deeply divided among themselves.

The strength of *Haciendas y comunidades* is the author's impressive archival research. She consulted ten different archives, some of them divided into different repositories, and she has included a helpful description of their respective holdings at the end of her book. She has ably woven together a wealth of detail from these different sources on the extension of landholdings, the succession of land tenure through inheritance and sale, encumbrances (*censos* and *capellanías*), and credit. Furthermore, she reconstructs a history of litigation and clarifies the distinctions between *fundo legal*, *tierras de comunidad*, and *mercedes* granted to Indian communities.

Jiménez draws carefully documented comparisons of the landholding patterns she found in southern Zacatecas with those researched for other regions of Mexico and the Andes. She confirms earlier findings by scholars working on these same questions, but emphasizes the importance of local variations. Her work is of interest to all historians working on colonial agrarian structures in Hispanic America, and it leaves a number of questions to explore further. How do we distinguish between provincial elites and oligarchies? If the hacendados of southern Zacatecas did not constitute an oligarchy, as Jiménez argues, then what is the wider significance of their ties to merchant and mining families and their use of political office? How did the material conditions of Indian pueblos change over the two centuries covered by Jiménez' study? What are the linkages between demographic growth and perceived land shortages that provoked increased litigation during the latter seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? What is the deeper meaning of contentious divisions in Indian communities along cultural and political lines?

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Indian Payment in Kind: The Sixteenth-Century Encomiendas of Guatemala. By LAWRENCE H. FELDMAN. Culver City: Labyrinthos, 1992. Illustrations. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. ix, 92 pp. Paper. \$18.00.

The tribute assessments, *tasaciones de tributos*, carried out under President Alonso López de Cerrato between 1548 and 1551 are a key source for any study of the economic and demographic history of Central America and the Yucatán. They have been consulted by many scholars, often to great effect, despite their inherent problems as a reliable guide to the tribute-paying capacity of local populations from Chiapas to Nicaragua.

Working predominantly with these records, Lawrence Feldman aims "to provide a geographical, economic, and demographic framework to study the facts from the past" (p. ix) for sixteenth-century Guatemala. Additional archival sources are

also employed to broaden these findings. The largest part of this work, section 3, consists of individual listings of sixteenth-century *encomienda* towns with their tribute requirements, arranged by region and department.

This is the author's third effort to subject the Cerrato *tasaciones* to scholarly scrutiny. Although this latest version is better organized and more concise, it still suffers from a significant number of paleographic and interpretive errors. In many instances, data from the Cerrato document have been transcribed or translated incorrectly, and passages from the original text are missing. Unfortunately, these omissions and errors detract greatly from Feldman's work and make it difficult to use his findings with any confidence.

Stylistically, Feldman writes in point-form prose, which gives his work the ring of a published notebook. The book also includes data that are unproven and incomplete: for example, his list of "other" sixteenth-century *encomenderos* (p. 77) should have been held in reserve until he was able to double-check the names and provide approximate dates, sources, and a more complete listing. In Figure 1, possible or probable designations of sixteenth-century *encomiendas* and *corregimientos* are put forward as fact, although little documentary evidence exists to substantiate their ascribed location and territorial extent.

Discussion of sources, so central to a work of this type, is sketchy and hurried, and archival references are cited in ungrammatical and often unintelligible Spanish. There are bewildering omissions of fundamental secondary sources, such as Francis Gall's four-volume *Diccionario geográfico de Guatemala* and the regional studies of Guatemala by George Lovell, Robert Hill and John Monaghan, Sandra Orellana, Ann Collins, and André Saint-Lu. Feldman's version of *tasaciones* found in the Archivo General de Indias (Indiferente General 857) contains misreadings of the original text, although that has been available in accessible, published form since 1986. For example, he states that Comalapa supplied 180 instead of 50 *indios de servicio* (p. 28); similarly, for Uatlán, he informs us that the tribute record was an entire year's payment, when the *tasación* clearly states that the amount was to be furnished every 50 days (p. 13). Inaccurate rendering of data is compounded by what appears to be, at times, an inability to appreciate cultural and historical context: for Momostenango, Feldman claims that one thousand *fanegas* of corn, the native staple, were to be fed to the *encomendero's* swine and livestock, when the original states only that the Indians are to furnish this amount (to the *encomendero*) (p. 22).

It has taken a considerable effort on Feldman's part to get the essence of the Cerrato *tasaciones* out in published form. Studies like this are desperately needed, but they must be diligently researched and carefully transcribed if they are to serve scholars unable to consult directly the sources discussed.

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