

polarization between the United States and Cuba, and between the Cuban government and the Cuban American community. That over the 1980s Cuban and Cuban American academics managed to establish a respectful dialogue is a modest example of the benefits of dialogue over confrontation. With diverse analyses and rich data, this issue of *Síntesis* also underscores the importance of intellectual dialogue on the highly charged subject of contemporary Cuba.

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Rebellion in the Borderlands. By JAMES A. SANDOS. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992. Photographs. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. 237 pp. Cloth. \$24.95.

The author of this work is a man with a mission. James Sandos is intent on making a particular event part of our collective historical memory. This task is complicated by a number of obstacles, not the least being the transnational character of the event and the character of the principal actors—Tejanos and Mexicans fighting for a political and social role in the lower Rio Grande valley of Texas. The Plan of San Diego (Texas), issued on January 6, 1915, attempted to rally the Spanish-speaking population to defend its rapidly deteriorating situation.

Before the turn of the century, the region's ranching economy engendered intermarriage between Tejano families and the Anglo newcomers. After 1900, a massive influx of Americans interested in agricultural development changed the social and economic balance. Competition for resources favored the new arrivals, who preferred to see the Spanish-speaking population as an inferior source of labor scarcely different from the Indians. Frontier violence, land grabbing, and the unrestrained, malevolent racism of the Texas Rangers created an explosive situation. The choice seemed clear: accept exclusion from the political community and loss of economic assets, or resist in some effective fashion. In the absence of any other option, violence appeared to offer the only hope. Given their limited resources, terror became the Tejanos' instrument to defend their rights and perhaps reverse the Anglo incursion in south Texas.

The Plan of San Diego demanded that every Anglo adult be killed and the land be returned to its rightful occupants. African Americans, Asians, and Indians, viewed as natural allies, would receive their own territory. The plan attacked the capitalism that had so radically destroyed the old order and, in a rough fashion, proposed anarchist remedies. Evidently, the movement's leaders had been influenced by the anarchism of Ricardo Flores Magón and his newspaper, *Regeneración*, though a direct link between Flores Magón's Los Angeles (California) group cannot be established. Sandos explores the violence of the San Diego movement, which included terror, counterterror, assassination, robbery, arson, and a spectacular train derailment with a number of execution-style killings. The level

of violence ultimately required most of the U.S. Army's mobile force to patrol the Texas border region.

In spite of the stir the Plan of San Diego caused at the time, it soon was submerged into the broader concerns of the ongoing Mexican Revolution. This explains why the whole episode has slipped into obscurity and is seldom even noted by historians; but at the time it was a roiling cauldron of conflicting motives and actions. Venustiano Carranza's aggressive campaign to secure U.S. recognition for his government included the assertion that only his regime could restore peace on the border; and indeed the claim bore some truth. Ex-president Victoriano Huerta involved himself in border events, hoping to return to power. In addition, German intrigues aimed at involving Mexico and the United States in the war depended on rumors and misinformation. The followers of the Plan of San Diego on a number of occasions spared Germans while killing others, further adding to the confusion. The presence of some Japanese among them was yet another ingredient. Attempting to separate the various threads that tangled border violence and intrigue together may well be an impossible task.

Nevertheless, Sandos has made a good start at separating myth from reality by providing a clear notion of what the PSD actually did and how it operated in south Texas and northern Mexico. Clearly, it represented a transborder movement supported by borderlanders from both sides. Equally obvious is that it represented a regional, anarchist response to sociopolitical conditions. The only weakness in the work stems from the author's desire to make his point so overwhelmingly that he tends to surround the argument with excessive detail, some of which might have been better placed in the notes.

Sandos has based his work on intensive research exploring even tangential issues to make sure he has not missed an explanatory key to borderland events. He is to be congratulated for a fine piece of work. This book will interest borderlands, U.S., and Mexican specialists. It is one of a number of recent works that indicate that borderlands history needs to be recast in a broader binational fashion to make any sense. History does not stop at the border for the convenience of national-centric historians, whether Mexican or American.

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Poverty, Natural Resources, and Public Policy in Central America. By SHELDON ANNIS et al. New Brunswick: Transaction, 1992. Maps. Tables. Appendix. Notes. ix, 199 pp. Cloth, \$24.95. Paper, \$15.95.

This collection of essays proposes a series of rural development policies for Central America in the 1990s. The proposals reflect both a growing disillusionment with traditional development strategies and the increasing influence of environmental concerns on policy designers in donor nations. As Sheldon Annis explains, their