

teenth century, but a certain cultural determinism pervades the study. Nineteenth-century patterns of political behavior had deep colonial and peninsular roots. Moreover, though Escalante explicitly avoids commentary on twentieth-century politics, in at least two places (pp. 50, 293) he clearly implies that the patterns he describes still prevail. Independence, Reforma, and revolution lose their importance as eras of political transformation, though the static picture is complicated by Escalante's assertion that independence brought the collapse of the state.

Escalante's title, *Imaginary Citizens*, signals the second challenge. In the absence of the citizens envisioned by liberal theorists, idealized civic morality (as opposed to functional public morality) could not develop. Though Escalante regards liberal ideas (however defined) as ineffective in shaping the Mexican polity, he does acknowledge that the political order he identifies "is nourished by the corporate tradition of Spanish political thought" (p. 137). The nineteenth-century liberals are well represented in Escalante's study as critics of existing practice, but not as advocates of change. To understand the postindependence political process, must we not recognize the interaction between the enduring patterns of political behavior that Escalante probes so effectively and the liberal visions, complex and often contradictory as they were? Must we not acknowledge the impact, for example, of the anticorporate thought of José María Luis Mora, the democratic ideas of Ponciano Arriaga, Ignacio Ramírez, and Francisco I. Madero, and even the historical constitutionalism of Justo Sierra and his fellow *científicos* (including Emilio Rabasa)? Though Escalante's study is a sobering corrective to the often idealized view of the Mexican liberal tradition, that tradition did and does have substance, both in the nineteenth century and today.

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Always a Rebel: Ricardo Flores Magón and the Mexican Revolution. By WARD S. ALBRO. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1992. Photographs. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xv, 219 pp. Cloth. \$24.95.

Ricardo Flores Magón (1874–1922), cofounder of the Mexican Liberal party, journalist, and anarchist intellectual, has attracted increasing attention in the past few years. Though he spent most of his years of active political radicalism in the United States, in flight from the police of dictator Porfirio Díaz or at odds with Díaz' successors, Flores Magón is recognized on both sides of the border as an important figure in the Mexican Revolution. Several excellent studies, including those by Juan Gómez-Quiñones, James Cockcroft, and Dirk Raat, either focus directly on him or discuss the movement of which he was a part. Ward Albro's new book does some of both: the reader comes away with a good sense of the man, the movement, and the cross-border context of the times.

Albro ably discusses some of the more controversial aspects of Flores Magón's

life, particularly the question of precisely when he became an anarchist. Albro correctly points out that Flores Magón's own writings make this question more difficult. The writings are hard to analyze because they are cast in journalistic, fragmentary form and fashioned "almost always with immediate practical purposes in mind" (p. 104). Unwilling to lose potential financial help from U.S. supporters, Flores Magón may have softened his message for several years before acknowledging his anarchism publicly in 1908. His ideas on the subject, Albro believes, did not fully develop until 1910, although he had been reading and thinking about anarchism for a long time.

Albro's work is true to its title in that it considers very little of Flores Magón's life beyond the focal period, from the years immediately preceding the Mexican Revolution to his death in 1922. The book draws its documentary base entirely from U.S. repositories. As a result, the sense it conveys of this very important figure remains incomplete. The book is very readable and will certainly make Flores Magón more familiar to readers in the United States. He still awaits, however, a full-fledged biography that takes account of his life and activities on both sides of the border.

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La economía Mexicana: siglos XIX y XX. Compiled by CARLOS MARICHAL SALINAS. Mexico City: El Colegio de México, 1992. Graphs. Tables. Notes. xxvi, 284 pp. Paper.

This collection of studies in Mexican economic history is a welcome addition to the literature, and will be of particular interest to those who teach the nineteenth century. The volume brings together ten key contributions to the field that originally appeared in *Historia Mexicana* between 1955 and 1989. The majority of the essays summarize pathbreaking research published in widely scattered places and frequently unavailable outside large research libraries.

Although presented in chronological order, the essays fall easily into three thematic groups for review here. Half of them treat topics in Mexican financial history, ranging from D. C. M. Platt's study of foreign investment in newly independent Mexico to Marcello Carmagnani's assessment of the relationship between Liberal doctrine and financial strategies from 1857 to 1911, and E. Richard Downes's interpretation of U.S. involvement in the petroleum sector in the late 1940s. Robert Potash reviews his own findings on the Banco de Avío, Mexico's first experiment with development banking. Robin King examines Mexico's 1933 proposal of a Latin American debt moratorium with reference to the debt crisis of the 1980s.

Three excellent pieces focus on social aspects of Mexico's late nineteenth-century experience. John Coatsworth's essay on the production of staple grains is typical of his important research on the period: it presents original conclusions