

interest and make reading a delight, now that the dust has settled on those other interpretations of Caribbean history from the pre-perestroika era?

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Distant Neighbors in the Caribbean: The Dominican Republic and Jamaica in Comparative Perspective. By RICHARD HILLMAN and THOMAS J. D'AGOSTINO. New York: Praeger, 1992. Maps. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xviii, 197 pp. Cloth. \$45.00.

To Hell With Paradise: A History of the Jamaican Tourist Industry. By FRANK FONDA TAYLOR. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1993. Photographs. Illustrations. Tables. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Index. ix, 239 pp. Cloth. \$39.95.

These books represent very different approaches to the study of the Caribbean. Political scientists Richard Hillman and Thomas D'Agostino approach recent Dominican and Jamaican politics eclectically, combining perspectives from the modernization, dependency, and corporatist schools. Their eclecticism minimizes dogmatism, but it also introduces ambivalence into their account. This is notable, for example, in their treatment of democracy. Drawing on modernization theory, the authors often seem to accept "democracy" at face value as something that exists or is being created in the two societies; less frequently, presumably drawing on dependency and corporatist perspectives, they allude to the democratic façade that masks authoritarianism, personalism, and patron-client relations in Caribbean societies. The authors resolve this ambivalence by designating the two nations as "transitional societies" with mixes of traditional-authoritarian and modern-democratic values and practices.

Hillman and D'Agostino's ambivalence on such issues as democracy is compounded by their limited historical perspective, which seems confined to an obligatory introductory chapter on "the legacies of the past." Their real subject, contemporary politics, lacks much sense of historical dynamics and evolution. For example, they cite social science research from the early 1970s as if it captured eternal truths rather than moments in the historical flow. Unfortunately, *Distant Neighbors* is of little use to the advanced historian.

In contrast to Hillman and D'Agostino's broad, often abstract approach, Frank Taylor's *To Hell With Paradise* is focused, concrete, and interesting to read. Approximately two-thirds of the book treats the foundation of Jamaican tourism from 1891 to 1914; the remainder treats the evolution of the industry up to the 1990s. Taylor sees the Jamaican tourist industry as an outgrowth of the slave plantation society, "the new sugar" (p. 93) derived from "the ratooning of the plantation." "By 1914," he writes, "there had emerged in the island of Jamaica (and in some other

portions of the Caribbean) a new kind of South Atlantic system, with hotel chains and a fresh form of body traffic for profit" (p. 111).

In Taylor's well-documented view, international tourism was (and is) a form of neocolonialism that heightened Jamaica's dependence on metropolitan powers, enriched a few (mostly foreign) entrepreneurs, abused most Jamaicans with racism and classism, and alienated prime lands from national control. Taylor's account should give pause to those who see international tourism as a cure for the Caribbean's appalling economic problems. For more than one hundred years, elite Jamaicans and foreigners have repeatedly held out the illusory image of the tourist paradise; a cost of the almighty tourist dollar has been popular dignity and well-being.

Comparative studies should be encouraged, but to maximize their potential they need to acquire the historical depth, clarity of perception, and sense of urgency represented in books like *To Hell With Paradise*.

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Histoire de la Colombie: de la conquête à nos jours. By JEAN-PIERRE MINAUDIER. Paris: L'Harmattan, 1992. Photographs. Maps. Tables. Bibliography. Indexes. 351 pp. Paper.

In this book the author's stated objectives are to write a synthesis of Colombian history for students, scholars, and all those interested in Colombia, and to explain the origins of the country's violent negative image. Both objectives are well met: Jean-Pierre Minaudier has provided a clearly written, well-organized interpretation, based on secondary literature. He emphasizes developments in the regions, which is an important contribution, fundamental to understanding the country's evolution.

The focal areas for the colonial period are the demographic collapse, the significance of gold mining, and the regional compartmentalization that later made nation building such a challenging endeavor. The approach is thematic; Minaudier rightly discusses important issues such as the economic, political, and religious institutions imposed by the Spanish, as well as the various labor systems and their impact on colonial society. The difficulty with the thematic approach is that separate sections are devoted to political and socioeconomic issues, resulting in chronological leaps, some repetition, and a lack of integrated explanation.

The author is critical of those who praise the glories of independence, which he interprets as a disaster that devastated the economy, exacerbated regionalism, and introduced the new problems of violence and insecurity. Perhaps his major contribution is his intelligent assessment and lucid explanation of politics in the national period. The current two-party system evolved in the context of regionalism, clans, quasi-tribalism, and patron-client relations (*clientelismo*). Minaudier