

The study found general ignorance about regional problems. The region's inhabitants had no ideas about a possible future course for their maritime interests, or they supported policies prejudicial to them and detrimental to the region. Maritime issues fused with issues of national territory and national sovereignty and claims to maritime resources for political and strategic advantage, put forward in the total absence of reliable information.

Figure 2 in the book is a table of "National Claims to Maritime Jurisdiction" in the wider Caribbean, asserting various rights over distances ranging from 12 to 200 nautical miles from a "baseline" of complicated construction. Some include an "Exclusive Economic Zone" and some an "Exclusive Fishing Zone." A map shows maritime delimitation, cast like a net over the Caribbean, with a miniscule area left as "high seas." The text reviews treaties, the laws and regulations of the various sovereignties, a list of bilateral agreements, and information on marine resource management.

A "country profile" gives the extent of the area, with demographic and economic data, including GDP, per capita income, and dominant industries. Quantitative data separate, by a wide margin, the largest nations from the smallest and the richest from the poorest. The book is a first stock-taking of a manageable area, rational and consistent.

But as the problem is allocating migrating fish and other species whose liquid habitat straddles boundaries, so the meaning of the numbers under any other heading is fluid. The amount and distribution of income does not call for comparison but for assessment. Cooperation among claimants regarding their maritime affairs is in everyone's interest, as is being demonstrated these days in New York.

Editor Beate Ratter and her team, along with their Caribbean contacts, are to be congratulated on their outstanding cooperative scholarship. The translation from the German, while not always the most exact, is nonetheless readily comprehensible, a testimony to the marvelous tolerance of English.

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*Historia militar de Puerto Rico.* By HÉCTOR ANDRÉS NEGRONI. Madrid: Ediciones Siruela, 1994. Illustrations. Maps. Figures. Appendixes. Bibliography. 536 pp. Cloth.

In most societies, clear guidelines are in place to restrict and regulate the practice of engineering, law, nursing, and the like. Professional groups establish minimal training requirements for their practitioners and set general standards to evaluate the quality of their output and services. Although historians, as a professional group, follow rules pertaining to our training and set standards against which to measure the product of our toil, we have no power—and no desire—to keep nonhistorians from writing about the past. Still, it is the responsibility of professional historians to evaluate books by lay historians according to minimal standards of rigor, specially if

these works have received funding from serious cultural and academic institutions.

Héctor Andrés Negroni's *Historia militar de Puerto Rico* is a well-intentioned attempt by a retired career officer of the U.S. Air Force to survey Puerto Rico's military history from early colonization to the present. Unfortunately, Negroni's efforts and passions for the subject could not compensate for his lack of formal or informal training in the historical discipline. The resulting product, I am sorry to report, lacks any original contribution. It is a book that is disorganized, bibliographically weak, flawed in many of its conclusions, and worse yet, factually inaccurate and unreliable. As if these problems were not serious enough, the edition is plagued by dozens of misspelled words and names and incorrect dates.

Negroni's book consists of two main parts: one covering the period under Spanish colonialism; the other, the period following the island's transfer to the United States in 1898. Each part includes chapters or sections on the organization and structure of government and on military units, installations, and conflicts. The segments dealing with the government structures are superfluous. The more useful and interesting chapters are those that trace the evolution of the island's fortifications and the various armed conflicts during the first three centuries of Spanish colonialism.

The book rests on a very flimsy and inadequate bibliographic foundation. Although Negroni states that he conducted research in several archives, no indication of that appears in either the bibliography or the text. The bibliography is nowhere close to being comprehensive or exhaustive. It is quite dated; it does not include a single book published after 1970. When dealing with the roots of Puerto Rican separatism, for example, Negroni uses only two sources: Angel Rivero (*Crónica de la guerra hispanoamericana en Puerto Rico*, 1922) and Antonio S. Pedreira (*Insularismo*, 1945; originally published in 1934). Similarly, he looks into the topic of slave revolts exclusively through the eyes of Luis M. Díaz Soler (*Historia de la esclavitud negra en Puerto Rico*, 1952), ignoring the more recent works of Guillermo Baralt, Benjamín Nistal Moret, and others.

The bibliographical poverty of the book manifests itself in a variety of lacunae, flawed assertions, and incorrect information. Early on, for example, Negroni asserts that a Carib cacique from the island of Vieques launched an attack on the Spanish colonists of Puerto Rico. None of the recent works on pre-Columbian Vieques supports the claim that Vieques was inhabited by Caribs. In another chapter, Negroni states that the rebels of Lares (1868) sang "La Borinqueña"—"the same which at present is the anthem of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" (p. 298). Although bearing the same title, the present version of the anthem is very different from the original. One more example of poor research and poor historical judgment is made patent in Negroni's treatment of the Vietnam War, which he dismisses in a few lines, arguing that "because it is such a recent conflict we cannot say much about it" (p. 448).

Some uninformed readers may find Negroni's book interesting and entertaining,

and that is fine. Anyone considering using it as a reference, however, should verify its information against other, more reliable sources.

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*Corrientes migratorias en Puerto Rico / Migratory Trends in Puerto Rico*. Edited by JUAN E. HERNÁNDEZ CRUZ. San Germán: Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico, 1994. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. 195 pp. Paper.

The complex of structural processes and life experiences delineated in these four essays by Juan Hernández Cruz and a demographic synthesis by Clara Muschkin clearly demonstrate the need for this bilingual volume on Puerto Rican migration. The pervasive yet ever-changing impact of migration on social relations over a lifetime, in daily affairs, and especially on language is convincingly evoked in these accounts, drawn from research extending over nearly two decades and spanning some five hundred years of migratory movements.

The first essay, “Migratory Trends in Contemporary Puerto Rico,” effectively maps the distinctive stages in the role of migration in shaping and responding to economic, political, and cultural trends. In the earliest phases of colonization and settlement in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the island was essentially a way station for migrants headed for the burgeoning Spanish colonies. Over the next three centuries, the gradual consolidation of a plantation system based on sugar and coffee fed on continued European immigration, the importation of African slave labor, and the decimation and dispersion of regional indigenous peoples.

Under the colonial relationship with the United States, roughly between 1900 and the late 1930s, an accelerated thrust toward a capitalist agrarian order, accompanied by primary industrialization and urbanization, set the stage for a variety of migration ventures coordinated by governments and international agricultural corporate interests reaching beyond the Caribbean to the U.S. mainland and Hawaii. Meanwhile, decades of unswerving commitment to population control and economic development by exporting labor power—in the hope of drawing capital investment and promoting job creation—situated Puerto Rico, as World War II ended, in the vanguard of labor-exporting developing economies. This strategy, carried to record levels between the 1940s and the early 1970s, reinforced the conditions for the current massive return migration, the circulation of a substantial mobile labor contingent, and the transformation of traditional sending countries into regional poles of attraction for displaced surplus workers.

This broad-stroke periodization of Puerto Rican migration provides a frame of reference for the major research conducted by Hernández Cruz at the Centro de Investigaciones del Caribe y América Latina: the qualitative cataloguing of the migration experience of individuals and families through the reconstruction of their life histories. Although the approach is generally intuitive and impressionistic rather than