

references makes sense, but it has a drawback: readers see glimpses of parts of the region but may not get a clear sense of particular national identities.

Most of the topical chapters nevertheless are splendid. The one on the indigenous populations in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Guatemala is sound, and the one on rural-urban migration quite interesting. An essay on women, particularly in Chile, focuses on their changing economic roles and political activities, but it does not allude to the significance of birth control in changing women's lives. The treatment of religion is particularly informative and illuminating: focusing on Brazil, it sketches the rise and decline of liberation theology and the progress of Protestantism and discusses the origins of various forms of spiritism. A chapter on artistic culture (painting, fiction, music, film, telenovelas) usefully connects "high culture" to popular culture. An essay on state sovereignty is also excellent in dealing with the question of sovereignty in several senses: internal control as well as independence from external forces.

Addressing the question of the role of race or color in the region's social stratification, the author makes statements that may be largely true, but presents them in simple and perhaps confusingly contradictory formulations. For example, on the status of indigenes: "'Indian' is an ethnic category defined by culture, not color" (p. 241). "Throughout Spanish America, a central colonial legacy is a social hierarchy based upon color and reinforced by class" (p. 242). At the same time, a chapter on people of African descent is excellent in that it points up differences in the social significance of African origins in the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Trinidad.

Winn seems more interested in social and political history than in the process of economic development. While he alludes to economic phenomena and processes, he does not fully explain the origins of economic policies or the consequences of particular policies or conditions. For example, in the discussion of the emergence of import-substitution industry, there is no reference to Raúl Prebisch or the economic reasoning underlying that development.

Although it does not analyze economic problems as fully as one would like, this book nevertheless is an outstanding introduction to contemporary Latin America. It offers concise, intelligent, and interesting discussions of many important contemporary phenomena. And it is very well written. I expect that it will be used widely in introductory courses on Latin America and the Caribbean.

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*Juárez*. By BRIAN HAMNETT. London: Longman, 1994. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. xiv, 301 pp. Paper. \$21.95.

Brian Hamnett's previous books have been noted for their practical and multidimensional approach to Mexican history, along with their tendency to uncover fundamental explanations before the rest of the historiography does. Returning in this volume

to one of his original interests, the state of Oaxaca, Hamnett brings into full play his preference for unromantic explanations in this political study of the remarkable career of Benito Juárez, foremost nineteenth-century liberal, leader of the Reforma, restorer of the republic, and president from 1858 to 1872. This book joins Sebastian Balfour's *Castro* (1990) as the second volume about a Latin American political leader in Longman's noteworthy Profiles in Power series. Because this is a necessarily diffuse and complex story, and because Hamnett bases much of his argument on archival sources, the book will be seen more as an original synthesis than as a classroom text.

The primary theme is to demystify a central figure in Mexican political mythology. Hamnett's emphasis, that Juárez was "essentially a pragmatist, increasingly dedicated to the survival of the state and the discovery of the most practical means of administering it" (p. xiii), will perhaps disappoint those who want their historical figures to adhere to stereotypes. For historians trying to guide students through the welter of speculation that so often replaces solid research in explaining nineteenth-century Mexican history, however, it will be a welcome reality check.

Taking his cue from Guillermo Prieto's dictum about nineteenth-century Mexican liberalism ("the works remain incomplete, but the prefaces are divine"), Hamnett explains Juárez' achievements as those of the practical administrator who understood that no amount of ideological brilliance would suffice if the state itself were destroyed by its enemies. This was the meaning of Juárez' early career as governor of Oaxaca (as well as the reason historians find him so difficult to categorize). Trusting no one, cooperating with whatever faction was needed at any moment, Juárez' gifts were political rather than intellectual.

Defining the issues of constitutionalism and regionalism as the twin keys to nineteenth-century politics before the Porfiriato, Hamnett makes clear that the survival of the republic, under the circumstances of the day, was everything. That was the simple but gargantuan measure of Juárez' achievement. Applied to a historical figure usually cloaked in such clouds of sentimentality that he is entirely obscured, such an approach should be very satisfying to the tastes of modern scholarship.

As a historian whose earlier works include pathbreaking studies of Mexican regionalism, Hamnett puts the regional base of Mexican political life at the forefront. All factions, ideologies, and political constructs were constantly changing during this period. Hamnett therefore urges readers not to oversystematize Mexican liberalism, but to examine it at the provincial level to see its true nature. Liberalism had many faces; as its leading figure, Juárez, despite the depth of his commitment, did not even trust other liberals. Nor should he have; in his later years, after 1867, according to Hamnett, one of his principal obstacles was the Liberal Party itself. Liberal factionalism, moreover, convinced Juárez that no one but he could be trusted with the direction of the revolution.

In the end, it is Juárez' sheer will that most impresses the reader. Hamnett con-

vincingly demonstrates that the real man, even if the reader never quite warms to him, is not only more interesting but more important than the mythical one.

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*Una inmigración privilegiada: comerciantes, empresarios, y profesionales españoles en México en los siglos XIX y XX.* Compiled by CLARA E. LIDA. Madrid: Alianza, 1994. Maps. Graphs. Tables. Notes. Bibliographies. Index. 237 pp. Paper.

This compilation consists of nine articles by authors who have published extensively on Spanish immigration to Mexico. It includes a short presentation by Nicolás Sánchez-Albornoz underlining the innovative character of this collection and a prologue by Clara E. Lida that provides a detailed summary and assessment of the articles included. The core of the book describes how Spanish immigrants have fared in Mexico between the end of the colonial period and the mid-twentieth century. Each article is rich in details and concrete cases, but—with the exception of two ideas, one regarding the immigrants' political options (Antonia Pi-Suñer) and the other on the difficulties of defining who those immigrants were (Leticia Gamboa Ojeda)—there is a coincidence (as there should be) between the conclusions presented in the prologue and in each article.

The articles provide quantitative analyses at the national and regional levels, as well as qualitative, deeper assessments of several Mexican regions. Together they present a representative picture of Spanish migration to Mexico over time and the patterns of the migrants' insertion into Mexico's society and economy. During the first period, 1821 to 1936 (the focus of eight of the nine articles), immigration was private and "chained" (*en cadena*), based on family and neighborhood bonds. Between 1936 and 1977, the second period, immigration was promoted and organized by the Mexican government to provide political asylum for Franco's victims. During the first period, diplomatic relations between Mexico and Spain underwent severe ups and downs (Spanish claims for losses during the wars of independence, forced loans, external and internal debt, French intervention). Tensions subsided between 1874 and 1894, but new ones emerged after 1910. As for migration, however, after a short period of decline between 1820 and 1830, Spaniards arrived in steady numbers between 1840 and 1880, and subsequently (at least until the 1930s) their numbers increased dramatically (Lida, p. 31). Between 1936 and 1977, Mexico was the only Latin American country that remained loyal to the republican government in exile. Only with Franco's death in 1977 did Mexico recognize the government of Juan Carlos I.

Although a small minority among many small minorities in Mexico, Spaniards have shown a consistent pattern of socioeconomic and political insertion into Mexico's main cities (especially Mexico City), where they are linked to the development of urban capitalism. We learn that Spanish immigrants were "privileged" and "success-