

conceptual dilemmas. The advocates of the broader interpretation identify a number of salient policy issues that are unlikely to disappear from Mexico's political agenda anytime soon; but to call those issues security interests does little to link policy challenges with policy instruments. In contrast, using a narrow definition of security (for example, threats to political sovereignty and territorial integrity) identifies challenges that the nation's armed forces can be poised to meet.

For those seeking an introduction to the wide-ranging debate on security in Mexico, this volume fills the need. For those seeking analytical clarification of Mexico's security interests and challenges, the search must continue; although the editors' introduction (with Jeffrey Stark) and the final chapter (by Luis Herrera-Laso M. and Guadalupe González G.) bring valuable conceptual clarification to a muddled debate.

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*Sistemas hidráulicos, modernización de la agricultura, y migración.* Edited by CARMEN VIQUEIRA LANDA and LYDIA TORRE MEDINA MORA. Mexico City: Universidad Iberoamericana, 1994. Maps. Graphs. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. 459 pp. Paper.

Land, labor, water. Few variables, if any, have been more important in shaping the history of humankind than these three. Their management in the name of modernization and development is something governments in the past one hundred years or so have undertaken with more or less skill and success, always benefiting some people and harming others. The regional variations in these efforts are numerous and complex, but patterns can be found, albeit through a difficult process of analysis, comparison, and synthesis.

This book, a product of a 1991 symposium of the same name organized by the Universidad Iberoamericana and El Colegio Mexiquense (Zinacantepec), unfortunately makes no attempt at synthesis. The idea behind the meeting, according to the prologue, "was to bring together scholars working on one or more of these themes—hydraulic systems, modernization of agriculture, and/or migration—in different countries" (p. 9). This rather vague organizing principle ("alguno o varios") is useful, even necessary, when planning a scholarly meeting and casting a large net for relevant researchers, but less efficient for a book. All the papers are interesting or important, but they have not been fitted together very coherently, and that is a shame.

The contributors discuss some very important issues based on solid case studies. The editors could and should have assisted readers by pointing out tentative points of agreement or consensus on such issues as the politics of land, labor, and water; regional (river-basin) planning and economic growth; or the commercialization of agriculture and social well-being. Rather than grapple with these problems, however,

the editors and publisher simply provide what they call “a notable wealth of data” (p. 12).

Most of the 12 papers adopt a social anthropology approach and focus on contemporary Mexico. Yet the collection is also multinational (with papers on California, Spain, and France), comparative (studies on the Tennessee Valley Authority and Mexico’s regional development programs), and historical (two papers on the Porfiriato and one on the immediate postrevolutionary period). Most of the papers touch on developmental politics, but only one, “Resistencia y acción colectiva,” by Scott Whiteford, examines in detail how groups and communities in various regions struggle over water scarcity.

Juan Vicente Palerm’s essay on “capitalist agriculture in its most advanced phase,” meaning that of California (p. 45), is superb. Palerm demonstrates the government’s decisive role in providing California’s agribusiness (latifundios) with its two most crucial inputs: cheap water channeled from afar and cheap migrant labor, 90 percent of which comes from Mexico. Pedro Arrieta also singles out the role of government in his paper on agricultural “development” in Tabasco (under the Plan Chontalpa). Surely no region provides a greater contrast to California; yet Tabasco’s government planning had some similar consequences: large commercial interests benefited while campesinos and agricultural workers bore the costs of modernization. Whereas Californians were the main beneficiaries of the state’s agricultural development, in Tabasco “external beneficiaries,” such as national and international machinery manufacturers and retailers, Nestlé and the national sugar consortium, and bureaucrats and engineers on the government payroll, appear to have been the real winners.

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*Maya Resurgence in Guatemala: Q’eqchi’ Experiences.* By RICHARD WILSON. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995. Photographs. Maps. Tables. Appendixes. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. 373 pp. Cloth. \$32.95.

*Maya Resurgence* is really two books. The first presents an ethnography of traditional religion among the Q’eqchi’ of Guatemala’s Alta Verapaz, focusing on links between community identity and the *tzuultaq’a*, tellurian deities peculiar to nearby mountains. In the process, Richard Wilson rightly defends postmodernism’s role in challenging essentialist views of identity and warns of the danger that it may reinforce anthropology’s synchronic tendencies. These chapters may prove slow going, however, for readers not endlessly fascinated by corn-planting rites or the intricacies of folk medicine. And much of the extensive detail they provide has little to do with the “other” book.

That book is in chapters 6 through 9, where most historians will fix their attention. Here the author traces the effects on the indigenous population of political and economic changes that occurred in the Alta Verapaz between the late 1960s and the