

criterio, no parecen haberse prolongado más allá del tema de los castigos corporales.

Habida cuenta todo lo dicho, pensamos que este trabajo constituye un aporte novedoso para una cuestión que a lo largo del tiempo ha preocupado a muchos estudiosos argentinos, los que, sin embargo, no pudieron—o no quisieron—sustraerse a las influencias ideológicas de las escuelas historiográficas en las cuales se enrolaron.

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*Redescubriendo un continente. La inteligencia española en el París americano en las postrimerías del siglo XIX.* Compiled by HUGO E. BIAGINI. Seville: EGONDI Artes Gráficas, 1993. Photographs. Illustrations. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. 402 pp. Paper.

Argentine historians have employed the term *second discovery of America* to describe the years following the Spanish Civil War, when exiles fled the peninsula to seek refuge in the New World. According to University of Buenos Aires historian Hugo Biagini, however, that second discovery occurred earlier, during the latter half of the nineteenth century, when an estimated 35,000 Spanish intellectuals and professionals reached the Southern Cone. Those immigrants subsequently made meaningful contributions to the culture of Argentina and other American nations.

This handsomely bound volume is one of those published under Spanish patronage in conjunction with the Columbian Quincentenary. Standing as the seventeenth historical study in the series V Centenario del Descubrimiento de América, it was sponsored by the provincial delegation of Seville.

Latin Americanists will welcome this work not just because it addresses a comparatively neglected historical period, the 1870s through the 1920s, but because it sheds light on the intellectual origins of the Spanish migration to America during those decades. Biagini, a specialist in the history of Argentina's "Alluvial Era," 1870–1930, demonstrates that many of the new arrivals were liberals fleeing from persecution after the failed republican experiment of 1868–74.

Modernizing Argentina welcomed the immigrants not just for the skills they possessed (3,500 of them alone were physicians), but because they helped the native Hispanic population preserve linguistic and cultural traditions eroded by massive immigration from other parts of Europe. Spanish immigrants were leaders in the Hispanist movement of 1898 and after. They helped Argentina resist the U.S. political and cultural penetration of Latin America. Even more significant was their participation in domestic politics; the "Revolution of 1890," for example, when President Miguel Juárez Celman was forced from office and the Radical Party was born.

Twelve of Biagini's students and colleagues contributed essays to this collection. Among these are biographical chapters on socialist politician and feminist Enrique del Valle Iberlucea, pedagogue José María Torres, bibliophile and freethinker Luis Ricardo Fors, and liberal journalist and politician José Paul y Angulo. Paul y Angulo

fled Spain in 1870, accused of masterminding the assassination of Spanish ambassador Juan Prim, whom Paul y Angulo had accused of betraying liberal ideals.

Other chapters are thematic, treating the Spanish emigré contribution to journalism, music, philosophy, literature, history, political philosophy, pedagogy, and medicine. The essays are heavily footnoted, drawing on archival sources mostly in Buenos Aires. The book's only flaw, though a considerable one, is its lack of an index.

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*The Politics of Human Rights in Argentina.* By ALISON BRYSK. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xiii, 291 pp. Cloth. \$42.50.

The human rights movement in Argentina is primarily associated with the protests of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo against the mass murder committed by the military dictatorship of 1976–83, and with the subsequent campaigns during the mid-1980s to achieve retribution. The victims of military repression numbered at least 10,000 (although many sources use the figure 30,000); the retribution consisted of the trial and conviction of a handful of the military junta leaders and some largely unfulfilled projects to reform the Argentine military. From this perspective—comparing the magnitude of the crimes committed by the military with the retribution meted out to those responsible—the human rights movement achieved relatively little. The convicted military leaders served about six years of imprisonment until the government of Carlos Menem granted them pardons. The human rights movement, having reached maximum influence during the early 1980s, has slowly declined since that time, and currently appears to play little part in Argentine politics.

Alison Brysk's well-written and carefully researched book avoids making wildly exaggerated claims for the impact of the human rights movement. For example, Brysk correctly attributes the fall of the military junta in 1983 to a combination of "economic decline, external military defeat, and domestic legitimacy crisis, [which] cannot be directly attributed to the human rights movement" (p. 58). Nevertheless, her analysis of the movement emphasizes its centrality in the transition of 1983 and the subsequent consolidation of Argentine democracy. The movement's impact was to "delegitimize the regime before the Malvinas defeat [of June 1982] and condition the character of the transition that followed" (p. 58). The evidence for this claim is presented in an account of the movement's activities before 1983 (the most famous being the Thursday afternoon processions by the mothers around the Plaza de Mayo), and then its activities after 1983. The latter (summarized on p. 155) included pressure to create the commission of inquiry on the "disappeared" known as CONADEP and to try the junta leaders in 1985, the creation of binding controls on coercive agencies, the transformation of political "discourse" in Argentina to promote notions of democracy and human rights, and the protection of a "collective memory" of the events of the late 1970s. According to Brysk, the human rights groups created an