

side. Such preferences are implausible for moderates, especially those on the left. One can object that the actors failed to foresee the consequences of confrontation, and this may be true; but as long as they did not, many of the actors seem to have expected confrontation to serve their immediate medium-term interests better than compromise. In other words, the game they played was not prisoner's dilemma but deadlock. The pareto optimal equilibrium of deadlock is noncooperation, and that is the strategy that moderates in Chile and Brazil chose. In the last few months before military intervention, the game changed from deadlock to chicken, but an insufficient number of players understood the change quickly enough to avert disaster.

In either this or the prisoner's dilemma interpretation, game theory usefully clears away irrelevant detail and focuses attention on the logic of the situation, but it does not "explain" the outcome, because the outcome depends on misperception, which is outside the model.

Succinct and highly readable, this book offers both a primer on different approaches to theorizing and a new interpretation of the breakdown of democracy in Latin America. It could usefully be assigned in graduate classes comparing analytical approaches and methodologies, as well as classes on Latin American politics. The author's outspoken defense of his own perspective should stir up lively discussions.

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*Confronting Historical Paradigms: Peasants, Labor, and the Capitalist World System in Africa and Latin America.* By FREDERICK COOPER et al. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1993. Notes. Bibliographies. Index. viii, 422 pp. Cloth, \$60.00. Paper, \$15.95.

This volume collects a number of essays, some previously published, that survey about 30 years of writing on the history of capitalism from Third World perspectives. The essays insistently ask how various broad claims to understanding the general shape of historical change have fared when viewed from the vantage point of Africa or Latin America, and particularly when applied to the history of labor and of peasantry on those continents. Early in the volume, Steve J. Stern sets the tone with his incisive discussion of the *evolving* history of how Andean silver mines were worked. When research has permitted us to get close to the mines and those who worked them, the variety of patterns escapes the paradigms. As the essays suggest more generally, the intentions of colonial administrators and capitalists confronted the varying capacities of workers or peasants to cope, to find their own points of advantage, to evade, and to resist. The outcomes differed from one place to another and from one decade to the next, to a degree that defies ready summary (and perhaps any summary).

Each of these essays is a rich and informed interrogation of a very rapidly developing literature. The core of the book features Stern's piece, which is a critique of

Wallerstein's account of coerced labor on the periphery of the world economy. Also included are an extremely thorough treatment of Africa in the world by Frederick Cooper, and paired essays reviewing the peasantries of Africa and Latin America by Allen Isaacman and William Roseberry. An introductory essay by Stern and a meditative response to the core essays by Florencia E. Mallon complete the volume.

The cumulative demonstration in these essays that the big picture is, up close, full of flaws is not the end of the discussion but the beginning. This is what gives this book its distinctive character. The volume suggests that historians of Africa and Latin America have something to say not only to each other but to historians generally. Instead of seeing mere "fragmentation" of historical knowledge in the new emphases on previously underdeveloped subject areas—which so seriously question received ideas—Stern's introductory essay considers "reverberation," the way scholars of one specialization develop modes of explanation that can be fruitful for scholars from other specialties.

Every essay is provocative in the good sense of making the reader rethink. A catalogue, let alone an assessment, of the "reverberations" is beyond any brief review such as this, but I offer two observations (reverberations?) of my own. First, the book's central theme is the actual and potential dialogues of Africanists and Latin Americanists; it contains little on the interplay of Africa and Latin America. I would think that the myriad ways in which Africans and their descendants figure in Latin American history would be a central terrain on which scholars of both continents might fruitfully meet.

Second, I find a theme that is not quite fully spelled out (although it is certainly referred to). What actually makes possible all these reverberations? I think the answer lies in the frequency with which the literature reviewed in these essays addresses the great theme of coping with domination. The ways people deal with the power of others over them are various, but not infinitely so. This is one important reason why those who do research about the periphery of capitalism, or about people subordinated because of class or race or gender, find parallel processes, however disparate are their concrete research settings.

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*The Vogue of Revolution in Poor Countries.* By FORREST D. COLBURN. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994. Plates. Bibliography. Index. x, 135 pp. Cloth. \$19.95.

This study compares 22 revolutions that have occurred in underdeveloped countries since World War II. It argues that most previous studies of revolution have slighted the role of ideas and the political agency of revolutionary elites as explanatory variables. This is especially true, Forrest Colburn contends, when it comes to explaining the trajectory taken by revolutionary regimes after the initial seizure of power.

Colburn concedes that systemic and structural factors, as elaborated by Ted Gurr,