

toría política de Colombia de finales del siglo veinte; a la vez muestran cuán difícil es emitir juicios equilibrados sobre acontecimientos contemporáneos, máxime cuando se tomó parte activa en ellos.

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Bolivia and Coca: A Study in Dependency. By JAMES PAINTER. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1993. Maps. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xiv, 194 pp. Cloth. \$35.00.

Given the dimensions it has acquired in the international context, the issue of illegal drug production and traffic needs, more than ever before, to be analyzed from a multilateral perspective. For this reason, the book under review is part of a project sponsored by the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, the United Nations University, and Brigham Young University. The project intends to analyze, through a multicountry study, the socioeconomic and political impact of the production, trade, and use of illicit drugs.

In Bolivia, coca and cocaine production, promoted by a growing demand, has increased significantly since the 1980s, beginning with the production of raw materials and gradually moving into drug elaboration and drug trade. James Painter's well-documented study centers on the Chapare region, the largest producer of coca leaves destined for cocaine elaboration. His sources are an ample range of Bolivian and U.S. government documents and testimonials of officials who participated in the various control programs and operations. The figures and tables must be interpreted by the reader, although they are useful for studying the phenomenon with greater objectivity.

The book correctly presents the complicated process of chemical transformation that coca leaves undergo to become pure cocaine. The various stages of this ecologically harmful process require specialized knowledge, time, space, and industrially elaborated chemical substances not available in the country. Good prices and an open market have turned the Chapare region into a privileged destination for a migratory current of peasants determined to produce coca leaves. Although this activity, today illegal, does not resolve the problems of local or national poverty, it is the most profitable one for the peasants. The projects intended to eliminate the coca crop generally have proposed no alternatives to replace those highly profitable conditions.

Painter's conclusion implies that the efforts to decrease coca leaf production have not yet yielded the expected results; the peasants have been passive recipients of the projects. A reorientation of the interdiction policies is therefore in order. Future projects must find mechanisms to prevent clientelism, corruption, and the politization of institutions, especially at intermediary levels, and must propose policies to

promote the desired sustained development that will eradicate hunger and poverty as well.

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Precarious Dependencies: Gender, Class, and Domestic Service in Bolivia. By LESLIE GILL. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. Photographs. Map. Notes. Bibliography. Index. viii, 175 pp. Cloth, \$45.00. Paper, \$15.00.

Even with the increasing importance of social history in Latin America, we lack much information on the world of servants. This book helps fill the gap for Bolivia, a country where domestic servants are still ubiquitous in middle-class and elite households. Although the author is mainly interested in writing an ethnography of domestics in La Paz, she includes two brief historical chapters, and her research on the ethnographic present has numerous implications for examining similar groups in historical time.

In the first two chapters, Leslie Gill takes the story from the turn of the century to the 1980s and develops the themes that permeate the rest of the study. Having migrated to La Paz, women had few opportunities other than domestic service; middle-class and elite families used the numerous servants they employed to proclaim their status. While serving their employers, these women were exposed to exploitative conditions and even sexual abuse by the male members of the household, despite the paternalistic veneer of the employer-servant relationship. The 1952 Revolution, although it benefited other groups, did little for domestics. The middle sectors could not afford more than one servant anymore, so the isolation of domestics increased.

The main emphasis is on the late 1980s, when the author conducted her research. With much empathy for the domestics, Gill describes the process by which women and men migrated to the cities and illustrates their initial experiences. She shows the problems that frequently occurred when domestics provided services in the intimate conditions of the household but themselves belonged to a different class and culture. Turnover was very high, but employers often cheated the women out of their meager wages. Once servants had children, moreover, they could not live in the household and needed to take up part-time work or enter petty commerce.

Gill laments that domestics have generally failed to organize into a coherent labor movement. Many have turned instead to the Protestant (mainly evangelical) sects that proliferate in the Bolivian cities. The author shows very well the sects' contradictory beliefs; they preached the inferiority of women, but among them domestics could find male partners who tended to remain more faithful and who did not drink.

I found most fascinating the discussion of the distinctive *chola* fashion, in which the author shows a fine sensitivity to class differences within the Aymara urban com-