

the expanding informal economy to survive. Safa notes that women have used the church as an umbrella under which to organize, and symbols of motherhood to legitimate protests, in order to make aggressive action more “feminine” and acceptable. In Chile, women organized almost four hundred workshops, either in production of goods or in service industries, such as barber shops and beauty salons. Peruvian women mobilized to provide the poor with more control over their health and started a domestic workers’ union to make employers obey labor laws.

Norma Chinchilla’s survey of Nicaraguan women stresses their political rather than labor roles. She notes that women who mobilized as a group in support of the Sandinistas did not receive the same consideration given to trade unions and peasants: when the fighting finished, the victorious leaders expected women to return home to prepare meals and clean house, leaving little time for politics. More young urban women wage earners voted for Ortega than the older rural women who had not left the home.

The basic goal of all three authors is to define an effective methodology, based on Latin American surveys, that can be used internationally to study the effect of gender changes in the labor force. Their extensive graphs, charts, and references to earlier works may tend to slow down the reader, but they provide valuable information for those interested in labor history. Tiano’s study is more specialized, but that of Bose and Acosta-Belén covers a wide enough range to make it useful in a course on Latin American women. Although the essays vary widely in the depth of their analysis, they disagree little on the significance of changes in society caused by the global economy and the participation of women in the public workplace.

DAWN KEREMITSIS, Emeritus, West Valley College

Emergences: Women’s Struggles for Livelihood in Latin America. Edited by JOHN FRIEDMANN, REBECCA ABERS, and LILIAN AUTLER. Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center Publications, 1996. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xii, 207 pp. Paper. \$17.95.

This book originated in a conference titled “Learning from Latin America: Women’s Struggles for Livelihood,” held in Los Angeles February 27–29, 1992. The conference brought together women scholars from six Latin American countries and the United States.

As described in the editors’ introduction, the stimulus for this gathering was Latin American women’s emergence during the 1980s and 1990s “into an enlarged public sphere” through their activities related to self-provisioning of livelihoods, labor market participation, and political action. These activities arose in response to urbanization and political mobilization; growing impoverishment, partly caused by the social and economic impact of structural adjustments; weaker state powers; and the retreat of governments from the social sphere. The central themes addressed

in the book are women's participation in livelihood systems and in citizens' rights movements.

The volume is divided into four parts. Part 1, "Context," consists of an excellent introductory essay by Lourdes Beneria about the impact of foreign debt and structural adjustment policies. Part 2 includes two chapters on "Collective Social Action and Labor Markets" (the weakest of the volume). The five chapters on "Political Practice" in part 3 comprise the heart of the volume. The annotated bibliography that makes up part 4 is a useful compilation of selected books published since 1980 with a focus on poor women's attempts to cope with poverty in Latin America. Its various topical sections include testimonies and narratives, household economy and everyday life, women's employment in urban and rural areas, literature reviews, anthologies, regional studies, and bibliographies. There are also author and country indexes. The bibliography includes 83 items, the great majority of which are published only in Spanish or Portuguese.

Like most edited books, this one is somewhat uneven, but is readable throughout, even in translation from Spanish. In addition to the initial chapter by Beneria, there is also a strong analytical piece by Maruja Barrig on collective kitchens, the state, and citizenship in Peru. The concluding essay by Sonia Alvarez continues the themes raised by both Beneria and Barrig. In addition, there are moving accounts by Cecilia Blondet and Malena de Montis, respectively, of political struggles in Peru (Sendero Luminoso's targeting of women leaders in Lima's collective kitchens) and Nicaragua (the evolution of the feminist movement). An especially interesting chapter, by Elsa Chaney and Aida Moreno Valenzuela, is presented as a dialogue between a researcher and an activist. They focus on the work conditions and history of organizing domestic workers in Latin America, and on the role of researchers in supporting women's political struggles.

As a whole, this is a well-crafted and refreshing set of chapters that follow through on the key themes from different angles. Although they show that the results of women's "emergences" have been ambiguous, they provide useful glimpses of the scholarship and action taking place in the region.

MARIANNE SCHMINK, University of Florida

El trabajo femenino en América Latina: los debates de la década de los noventa. Compiled by BEATRIZ BUSTOS and GERMÁN PALACIOS. Guadalajara: Luna, 1994. Map. Graphs. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. 311 pp. Paper.

During the last decade, groups of institutions in Guadalajara, including the university and the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social del Occidente (CIESAS), have been producing collections of social science research (from which historians have been notably absent) dealing with, among other topics, the lives of workers, labor markets, and the economic crisis in Mexico. The volume