

comienda territorial dimensions (“Encomienda and Hacienda: The Evolution of the Great Estate in the Spanish Indies,” *HAHR* 49:3, August 1969; subsequently critiqued by Robert G. Keith, “Encomienda, Hacienda and Corregimiento in Spanish America: A Structural Analysis,” *HAHR* 51:3, August 1971).

Another problem is that the work is predominantly a European and colonial story. It offers no native perspective. It includes no discussion of the indigenous concepts of land and tenure, and no mention of such phenomena as “resource sharing” among the native peoples, which might explain instances of original use and eventual transfer of native resources to Europeans.

Nevertheless, in addition to its value for specialists, this book could be a useful tool in graduate seminars to prepare students for work in the archives. The assignment of such a work would give students a feel for the type of information contained in different types of documents, the author’s use of data, and its alternative uses. After all, titles provide information on the economy, the relations between Europeans and Indians, and the position and affinities of native leaders (*kurakas*). Inventories of estates, when included, contain data on hacienda layout and construction, technology, and minutia on the religious objects of a church or chapel. Such a lesson might conclude with a reminder that estate titles could be rounded off with other types of documents, such as accounts, for details on management and daily or seasonal activities.

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*De las reformas borbónicas a la república: el consulado y el comercio marítimo de Lima, 1778–1821.* By CARMEN PARRÓN SALAS. San Javier, Murcia: Imprenta de la Academia General del Aire, 1995. Illustration. Maps. Graphs. Tables. Appendixes. Bibliography. 583 pp. Paper.

In this careful examination of the consulado of Lima and Peruvian trade from the expansion of *comercio libre* in 1778 to independence, Carmen Parrón Salas convincingly argues that successful implementation of the crown’s policy of eliminating foreign competition and establishing state control of trade would have broken the Cádiz merchants’ dominance in the Peruvian market and destroyed Peruvian merchants as well. Facing intense competition, however, first from the Five Major Guilds of Madrid and then from the state-supported Royal Philippine Company, merchants of Cádiz and Lima worked together under the new regime of *comercio libre*, maintained dominance in the area from Guayaquil to Chile, and continued extensive trade with Upper Peru. Thus the new policy stimulated rather than destroyed traditional trading interests, albeit in the context of an overall decline in the value of Peruvian trade with Spain. The wars of independence, of course, disrupted trade, diverted merchant capital to the royalist cause, and left the vicerealty financially prostrate, despite the reannexation of Upper Peru.

*De las reformas borbónicas a la república* is divided into two parts. The first,

comprising three chapters, examines the consulado's organization, responsibilities, finances, contributions to royal financial needs, and attitudes toward commercial policy. The second, chapters 4 to 7, considers regional and interprovincial commerce, trade with Spain, trade with Asia, and neutral and foreign trade. Although both parts focus on the years 1778 to 1821, Parrón Salas also provides both earlier and later material. A final chapter reiterates the major conclusions, while numerous graphs, tables, and appendixes provide a wealth of information related to trade.

Solidly based on materials in the Archivo General de la Nación, Lima, and the Archivo General de Indias, Seville, the book makes available extensive information related to Peruvian merchants and trade in the last decades of Spanish rule. While John Fisher's examinations of silver mining and trade have already documented that contemporaries' dire predictions of collapse were exaggerated, Parrón Salas's massive volume fills an important gap concerning the activities of the long-powerful merchant guild of Lima from the onset of *comercio libre* to independence. Its discussion of crown trade policy, divisions among Spanish merchants in Lima, the role of the Philippine Company in Peruvian trade, neutral trade, and trade during the closing years of Spanish rule is particularly valuable. Despite a distracting number of typographical errors, this work is essential reading for all students of late colonial trade and commercial policy.

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## National Period

*Historia de las elecciones en Iberoamérica, siglo XIX: de la formación del espacio político nacional.* Edited by ANTONIO ANNINO. Buenos Aires: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1995. Tables. Notes. 479 pp. Paper.

Historians have characterized nineteenth-century Latin America as a period when caudillismo or authoritarian oligarchies predominated and little real democratic development occurred. While many constitutions were written and many elections were held, the letter of the law was rarely obeyed and, operating under various restrictions and constraints, voters rarely determined political outcomes. The essays in this collection aim to suggest a greater complexity to this general picture. As elections and voting in Latin America have again become important, this volume appears at a particularly propitious time.

A collaboration by European, Latin American, and North American scholars, the collection covers national and regional units intermixed with specific case studies of particular localities. The scope is considerable, with specific emphasis on Mexico, Brazil, the Andean region, and the Río de la Plata area. Perhaps a future volume could include some of the areas not covered, notably Chile and Colombia.

The organizers clearly took care to impose a common structure on the individual essays and to avoid undue overlap. Most of the essays discuss the impact of external