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Edited by John R. Fisher, Allan J. Kuethe, and Anthony McFarlane, Reform and Insurrection in Bourbon New Granada and Peru

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Melero, Francisco Morales Padrón, José Pérez Herváas, Herninio Portell Vilá, and Juan Yela Utrilla. He divides his book into three sections: the war in North America, the war in the Caribbean, and the war in Europe. In each, he provides a fully-developed, chronological narrative of the major battles, engagements, and campaigns along with assessments of the Spanish commanders who led them. He also examines the Spanish policy at court which resulted in these military ventures. In so doing, Beerman admirably proves his major thesis, namely, that "Spanish assistance to the United States . . . was vital to the success of the North American cause, especially so in the case of Spanish military and naval operations which kept the English occupied to the benefit of the American colonists" (p.15).

Although this conclusion will not be surprising to hispanicists, Beerman's book will hopefully provide a historiographical corrective for the wider community of eighteenth-century British and North American historians who consistently ignore Spain's role in the Revolution. For example, British historian Jeremy Black's recent book, *The War for America* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1991), has been hailed as the best military history survey of the conflict written during the last twenty years. Black, like many other British and North American historians before him, makes scant mention, if any, of Spanish military participation in general, or of the campaigns led by Bernardo and Matías de Gálvez, of the Spanish victories at Menorca, or of the invasion of the Bahamas. Beerman's study now renders unacceptable any such future omissions in the mainline historical literature dealing with the American Revolution. Although currently available only in a Spanish language edition, this volume should nonetheless attract a wide reading audience on both sides of the Atlantic.

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Reform and Insurrection in Bourbon New Granada and Peru. Edited by John R. Fisher, Allan J. Kuethe, and Anthony McFarlane. (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1990. xii + 356 pp. Maps, tables, bibliography, index. \$47.50 cloth, \$16.95 paper.)

This book of essays, on different topics dealing with late colonial New Granada and Peru, grew out of a symposium organized for the always fecund International Congress of Americanists, in this instance the forty-fifth, which met in Bogotá in 1985. Long dominated by anthropology, in the past two decades historians have received greater representation at the congresses.

These ten essays are divided into three sections, the first broadly focusing on imperial policy and its application in New Granada and Peru, the second on the economic effects of Bourbon reforms, while the third examines colonial protest and rebellions. The essays represent some of the best new scholarship in the field being generated both by more well-established practitioners such as Professors Allan J. Kuethe of Texas Tech University and John R. Fisher of the University of Liverpool, and by newer entrants to the field such as Sandra Montgomery Keelan, a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina and Lance R. Grahn, an assistant professor at Marquette University.

All of the authors have been involved in one form or another in reassessing not only the Bourbon reforms and their multiple manifestations in New Granada and Peru, but also the internal developments in the regions themselves—such as civil disturbances and rebellions—as indicators of the nature and vitality of their societies and economies.

Perhaps these essays indicate more than anything else the culmination of the trend of the last two to three decades that focuses on the regions of Latin America as subjects of intense scrutiny for their own sake. As the editors note in their introduction, "historians who have attempted grand syntheses of the Spanish-American history of the period have found it difficult to interpret developments and attitudes in the viceroyalties of New Granada and Peru," (p. 2)—largely due, perhaps, to the immense variety of responses to these reforms within the many distinct regions of the viceroyalties. These essays, which are briefly summarized below, will not make the grand synthesizers' job any easier. If anything, they will need to broaden their view even further as they try to portray the new—often quite diverse and even contradictory—realities of Latin America emerging through studies such as these.

Allan Kuethe's essay, "The Early Reforms of Charles III in the Viceroyalty of New Granada, 1759-1776," examines how the early reform tendency under Charles III gradually was weakened and grew ineffective towards the end of the eighteenth century. Sandra Montgomery Keelan explores "The Bourbon Mining Reform in New Granada, 1784-1796," and discovers that mining reform failed at the end of the century for a variety of reasons, among the most interesting being the ignorance of local conditions and local strengths.

Juan Marchena Fernández's essay, "The Social World of the Military in Peru and New Granada: The Colonial Oligarchies in Conflict, 1750-1810," analyzes the relative power of Creole and Peninsular elites in the militias of both colonies organized under the Bourbon reforms. Local priorities more often outweighed imperial needs as these militias matured and eventually blossomed into patriot armies. In his contribution, "Commercial Reform and *Comercio Neutral* in Cartagena de Indias, 1788-1808," Jacques A. Barbier

probes the various efforts to integrate the New Granadan economy into the imperial economy, and the basic failure to do so.

Lance R. Grahn, in "An Irresoluble Dilemma: Smuggling in New Granada, 1713-1763," describes the incredibly active and successful contraband trade along the coast of New Granada which defied all efforts to eradicate or control it. John R. Fisher's essay, "The Effects of *Comercio Libre* on the Economies of New Granada and Peru: A Comparison," finds that the commercial reforms applied to Peru brought about significant changes, especially in the nature of local Peruvian industries, but had small impact on New Granada.

Maurice P. Brungardt explores "The Economy of Colombia in the Late Colonial and Early National Periods" and finds that local economies were much more resilient to the inroads of European commerce during the epoch of free trade.

The last three essays in the book focus on colonial opposition to imperial control. Both Anthony McFarlane's "The Rebellion of the *Barrios*: Urban Insurrection in Bourbon Quito" and David Cahill's "Taxonomy of a Colonial 'Riot': The Arequipa Disturbances of 1780," serve to remind us that popular protests against taxes are ageless phenomena. In the instances treated by McFarlane and Cahill, uprisings in Quito and Arequipa to new revenue-producing endeavors by the crown, prefigured some of the more celebrated rebellions of the eighteenth century, especially that of Tupuc Amaru II.

In the final essay by Brian R. Hamnett, "Popular Insurrection and Royalist Reaction: Colombian Regions, 1810-1823," the author deals with the regional and social divisions in New Granada that beset both royalists and patriots during the Wars of Independence period. These regional loyalties and class divisions often meant more in the final reckoning of loyalties and commitments than all the platitudes and principles espoused by royalist and patriot leaders as they sought allegiance to their respective causes.

This collection of essays constitutes an important and welcome source of new information, often tellingly interpreted to give us a broader, more complex understanding of those forces at work in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. For many of us, our shopworn interpretations of the Bourbon reform period, well-honed by many years of telling in the classroom, may need to be discarded in the main, or, at the least, very heavily edited by reference to these essays.

The reviewer has one quibble, perhaps unfounded: a much longer introduction by the editors would have been preferable, in which the editorial team sat down and ground out a synthesis of all these materials. Now that we have all the immense variety of responses to the reform period, let's see what it all means in the grand scheme of things. It is, after all, what we are asked to do in our classes.

That said, these essays constitute a richly documented, well-written, and, in several instances, superbly analyzed group of themes and essays that not only dignify our profession but also provide new insights into our history of American peoples.

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Los Angeles, pueblo y región, 1781-1850. Por Antonio Ríos-Bustamante. (México, D.F.: Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, 1991. 384 pp. Ilustraciones, mapas, tablas, apéndice, bibliografía, glosario. N\$40.00 o \$16.86 U.S., libro en rústica.)

El presente estudio representa un esfuerzo por llenar un vacío historiográfico, aquel de la historia local y chicana de la región de Los Angeles anterior a 1848. La hipótesis de trabajo de la que parte el autor sostiene que la sociedad *mexicana* de la Alta California era dinámica y creciente, que los angelinos y la región de Los Angeles jugaron un papel fundamental en la creación de una identidad genuinamente californiana, y que tal sociedad durante los períodos colonial y mexicano no puede considerarse como un fenómeno aislado sino más bien dentro del contexto mexicano mismo. Con esta hipótesis Ríos-Bustamante pretende comprobar la invalidez de las llamadas teorías del estancamiento que conforman en palabras del autor "una tesis sobre la naturaleza de la sociedad californiana que podría llamarse 'tesis de la decadencia hispánica'" (p. 290).

El libro se divide en seis capítulos, introducción y conclusión, así como un detallado ensayo historiográfico y una bibliografía que le otorgan un valor notable como obra de referencia y consulta. Según el autor, las fuentes consultadas incluyen fuentes primarias tales como informes, descripciones y censos escritos por misioneros y funcionarios, así como narraciones de pobladores mexicanos y extranjeros, a la vez que materiales secundarios. Las notas al pie de la página demuestran una exhaustiva enumeración de dichas fuentes que el lector desearía se reflejaran más claramente en el texto a la hora de sustentar los argumentos de su hipótesis.

Durante el período estudiado por el autor se produjo la transición de una sociedad de corte teocrático y monárquico a una sociedad secularizada y republicana. La primera, entronizada por los españoles peninsulares a través de distintas instituciones como las misiones y presidios, la segunda, hija de la independencia mexicana. No obstante, Ríos-Bustamante no abunda en este aspecto que marca las discontinuidades históricas entre la experiencia