

and everything. This book as the other one makes an excellent addition to help students understand the Latin American milieu. It should be put on the reserve list to be seen and consulted by our students. Naturally anyone interested in Latin America will also find it useful. There is quality and art in both books.

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CHARLES W. ARNADE

*Cacicazgos y nobiliario indígena de la Nueva España.* By GUILLERMO S. FERNÁNDEZ DE RECAS. México, 1961. Biblioteca Nacional de México. Instituto Bibliográfico Mexicano. No. 5. Illustrations. Indices. Pp. xxvi, 351. Plates 27. Paper.

Despite a wide interest in the subject, books on Mexican colonial *cacicazgo* are extremely rare. The subject appears as one of significance in the general problem of indigenous survival and adaptation to colonialism, for *cacicazgos* reflected native social class systems while they adjusted to Spanish rules of primogeniture, *mayorazgo*, and property possession. Caciques are frequently interpreted as the most acculturated members of colonial Indian society and likewise as the ones who most successfully maintained positions of native power. They mediated the Spanish and Indian worlds. Moreover we have more information about them than about any other Indian class.

*Cacicazgo* still needs a thoroughgoing historical analysis, however, for our present knowledge really derives from a limited number of texts and from an application of undemonstrated social theories. The present work is not such an analysis, though it provides some of the materials for making one. Its brief preface barely introduces the subject. The remainder of the volume consists of documents on colonial Mexican *cacicazgos*, presented without elaboration or commentary. The texts are taken from the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico and principally from the *ramos* of Tierras and Vínculos. Most derive from colonial legal cases involving disputes over land possession or over inheritance. The full texts are given in some instances but a large part of the volume consists of summaries of the recorded statements of legal witnesses. Most of the materials relate to the central plateau area, with occasional documentation on *cacicazgos* in Oaxaca, Guanajuato, Michoacán, and Querétaro.

In general the texts do indicate a high degree of Hispanization at the upper levels of Indian society, notably in the later colonial period. Ethnic mestization occurred, and the landed properties were subjected to Spanish rules of inheritance. The materials have much more of a Spanish than an Indian character. The tendency to legal

disputation is very clear, and some of the documents presented to support claims have quite a spurious look. The progressive fusion of cacicazgos and latifundia is readily seen in a number of these cases.

The book has an index of persons and places and a set of plates illustrating coats of arms granted to colonial Mexican caciques.

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*Relaciones de Cuba y México durante el período colonial.* By JOSÉ L. FRANCO. La Habana, 1961. Ministerio de Educación. Notes. Pp. 91. Paper.

*Documentos para la historia de México.* Edited by JOSÉ L. FRANCO. La Habana, 1961. Archivo Nacional de Cuba. Documents. Notes. Pp. 500. Paper.

This first mentioned volume is the third in a series of documentary collections dedicated by Cuba to other Latin American nations in commemoration of their independence movements, the previous volumes having been published in honor of Venezuela and Argentina. The present work contains an introductory study entitled "Relaciones de Cuba y México durante el período colonial," by José L. Franco (pp. IX-XCIX), followed by papers and documents on the years 1767-1830 (pp. 1-498), with the emphasis on 1799 to 1830. Dr. Franco's introductory study of four chapters is in many respects as valuable as the collection of papers that follows, the usefulness of which it greatly enhances. Chapter I, for instance, is an excellent presentation of the political and economic dependence of Cuba on the viceroyalty of New Spain from 1555, when this dependence became official, to the beginnings of the revolutionary movements on the continent. Clearly delineated are the steps by which this dependence was practically severed by 1799, well before the independence movements got under way. The chapter is so well documented from published works, and from the papers printed in the volume itself, that the reader is led to wonder why Dr. Franco felt constrained to quote, on the opening page, a statement by Marx and Engels concerning Spanish expansion in America, when far more pertinent citations could have been taken from dozens of other works, including some by Dr. Franco himself.

Chapter II of the introduction surveys the "conflictos hispano-americanos" from 1782 to 1817 that involved Mexico, Cuba, Louisiana, and the Florida provinces. Students of such colorful individuals as James Wilkinson, Aaron Burr, Alexander McGillivray, William Augustus Bowles, and the Lafitte brothers will read this chapter with