

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

interest and profit, for the author has made good use of the primary and secondary material at his disposal. Missing, however, from the body of the chapter and from the footnotes is any indication that the author had access to many of the collections of documents and the secondary works published during the last three decades on Spanish Louisiana and Florida after 1763: the two volumes by A. P. Whitaker on *The Spanish-American Frontier*, J. W. Caughey's documentary study of Alexander McGillivray, Lawrence Kinnaird's three volumes of papers on *Spain in the Mississippi Valley*, and the studies by José Latorre Navarro, to mention only a few. In justice to Dr. Franco it should be noted that most of these works have not become available in Cuban libraries and archives, a serious handicap to Cuban investigators since their island was so closely associated with Louisiana and Florida.

Chapters III and IV are more adequate and provide much help for investigators who will use the mass of papers reproduced in this volume. Herein is explained Cuba's relationship to the revolutionary movements in Mexico and Northern South America during the years 1821-1830 when Spain sought to use Cuba as a base for the reconquest of the continental colonies.

As for the papers themselves, they are concerned principally with Cuba's rôle during the revolts on the continent. They might well be called the reverse side of the independence movements, and the key to their contents is found in the following paragraph from the introductory study:

Durante el período histórico que abarca los gobiernos del Capitán General Marqués de Someruelos hasta el general Vives—13 de mayo de 1789 a mayo 15 de 1832—fue la Habana el centro político y militar de cuantos esfuerzos realizó la Monarquía española y sus epigonos reaccionarios para aplastar los movimientos revolucionarios de América, especialmente encaminados contra Haití, Venezuela, México, y Colombia. Y para lograr ese objetivo, intendentes de Hacienda como Alejandro Ramírez y gobernadores como Vives, se valieron de espías, saboteadores, agentes provocadores, corsarios, piratas y hasta de expediciones militares condenadas de antemano al fracaso.

In the footnotes the editor has limited himself to citing the location of the original papers in the Archivo Nacional de Cuba. An index would have added greatly to the usability of the volume, which is a most valuable contribution to the published source material on

the whole Gulf and Caribbean area. A parallel contribution could be made by the Archivo Nacional de Cuba if it would sponsor the publication of the mass of papers in the institution concerned with Spain's part in the intervention in Mexico by Spanish, French, and British forces in 1861. Another such contribution could be made by publishing the papers in the Archivo Nacional dealing with Spanish reoccupation of Santo Domingo in 1861-65.

The volume on *Relaciones de Cuba y México durante el período colonial*, by Dr. Franco, is an identical reproduction of his introduction printed in the volume reviewed above.

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*Les limites entre le Nicaragua et le Honduras.* By JAIME SOMARRIBA-SALAZAR. Leyde, N.D. [Received in 1962]. A. W. Sijthoff's Uitgeversmaatschappij N. V. Maps. Appendix. Index. Bibliography. Pp. 339. Paper.

Presented as a doctoral thesis to the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris, this work was begun in 1954 after the author had completed the Licence en Droit at the same University. In this, the publication of his thesis, Somarriba-Salazar shows his legal training as well as his knowledge of the delicate question confronting the two Central American countries.

Briefly, this study is composed of three sections: 1) a history of the boundaries between Nicaragua and Honduras from 1502 to 1821; 2) the boundary question from the date of Independence to 1957 and 3) the judicial elements of the boundary dispute, in which is constituted the three major elements of the thesis.

*The Problem:*

Honduras claims that the frontier should run from Portillo de Teotecacinte by the middle of the Guineo or Namasli River, from where it is to proceed by the Poteca or Bodega River continuing along the *talweg* (that line joining the two lowest parts at the end of a valley, i.e., the middle line of a valley) of the Coco or Segovia River to its delta in the Atlantic Ocean at Gracias à Dios. The counter claim by Nicaragua, based upon the *uti possidetis juris* of 1821, supports the view that the frontier, beginning at Portillo de Teotecacinte, should follow the Aguán or Romano River to its mouth at Santa Rosa de Aguán on the Atlantic.

The land area in dispute between these two countries is not of a minor nature for the surface area between Portillo de Teotecacinte and the *talweg* of the Coco and Aguán Rivers and the Atlantic Ocean