

is more than 30,000 Km², not too mean an area for any country to ignore. Those wishing to locate this territory accurately might do well to forego consultation with the two maps placed at the end of the work. For such an admirable study as this is, it is disappointing to have such poor cartography.

Basis of Dispute:

On July 22nd, 1906 the report of the Commission for the examination of the boundary dispute between the Republics of Honduras and Nicaragua was presented to the King of Spain, Alfonso XIII. Five months and one day later came the "Sentence Arbitrale de S.M. Le Roi D'Espagne . . ." given in Madrid and countersigned by the Spanish Minister of State, Juan Pérez Caballero. On Christmas day, 1906, Nicaragua stated its dissatisfaction with the decree of the Spanish King and it is from this basis of dispute that the third major element of the thesis springs.

Investigation of the Dispute:

Beginning with the thesis paragraph number 722, the author examines the validity of the Royal decree of 23 December, 1906, then passes on (725) to two points of argument favoring the case of Nicaragua: 1) an examination of the competence of Alfonso XIII to adjudicate the dispute, and 2) the fact that the *Sentence* of 23 December 1906 had, according to International Law, a fundamental error of documental misinterpretation.

Dr. Somarriba-Salazar proposes to bring the problem of the boundary dispute before the International Court of Justice and, an appendix indicates that this has been done since completion of the thesis.

On a general level, it may be remarked that the compilation of documents used in the thesis is a masterful accomplishment and these may all be seen at one glance in a carefully prepared chronological index. The author's prudent progress from one point to another throughout the work gives the study a highly organized, one might say coldly legal, but thoroughly readable aspect.

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Colotlán. Doble frontera contra los bárbaros. By MARÍA DEL CARMEN VELÁZQUEZ. México, 1961. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Cuadernos del Instituto de Historia. Serie Histórica No. 3. Maps. Index. Pp. 118. Paper.

The author of this book set out originally to write an article based on twelve reports made by local authorities in 1783 on the Colotlán

frontier of western New Spain; however, upon the advice of scholars of the *Instituto de Historia* of the University of Mexico, she decided also to publish the twelve reports. These reports, deposited today with the *Archivo General de la Nación*, were made by the priest, padrón, alcalde mayor, corregidor, or local leading citizen of each of the parishes of the Colotlán district. The district was roughly what is now the extreme northern part of the Mexican state of Jalisco and principally the valleys of the Balaños and Colotlán rivers. The region was brought under Spanish control in the early 16th century by Nuño de Guzmán. After the bloody war of the Mixtón in 1541, Viceroy Luis de Velasco, as a part of his "diplomacia de la paz," caused it to be settled with vassal Indians, mostly Tlaxcaltecas. Colotlán was a military buffer zone against the *Indios bravos*, in this case the Chichimecas and Nayaritas. It also protected the mines of Zacatecas and the *Camino Real* which ran along its eastern boundary.

In 1783, because of a jurisdictional dispute, the new Viceroy, Matías de Gálvez, ordered that a report be made on Colotlán. He specified that it include information on the number of inhabitants, their customs, their occupations and other activities, and recommendations on what form of government would be best to establish among them. Since the recognized subdivision of the district was the parish, a separate report was ordered for each of these. What author Velázquez has done is to describe the contemporary historical situation and to synthesize the contents of the reports. It is not often that a reviewer has such a ready opportunity to check the author's use of documents, but in this case the treatment seems to be fair and balanced and the conclusions warranted. One might question the inclusion in such a short book of forty-nine pages of names, the census of several villages, when the only possible interest is genealogical, but this does no harm to the remaining passages. The book also contains two excellent maps, one in color.

This book should be of special interest to historians of the Mexican frontier as a source of first-hand information on the conditions in a frontier district after it had outgrown its usefulness. By 1783 the Nayaritas had become quite tame (one official reported he would rather live with them than the Indians of the frontier villages), and the frontier Indians had become unmanagable because they were allowed to maintain militia companies and to retain the important privileges granted to frontiersmen, especially exemption from taxes. Indeed, they had been known to kill Spanish militia commanders who were not to their liking.

American frontier historians might also be interested in this book

as a comparison to the frontier they study. At first the similarities might seem few. For instance, the Spanish technique of settling the frontier with subjugated Indians to be used as buffers against the wild Indians might seem to have no counterpart in United States history, but is it not possible that a similarity exists between this and the U. S. policy of Indian removal? Consider the case of the five civilized tribes of the South who were removed to Oklahoma and, whether it was planned this way or not, served as an effective buffer against the savage Plains Indians.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

Nationalism in Latin America. Past and Present. By ARTHUR P. WHITAKER. Gainesville, Florida, 1962. University of Florida Press. Notes. Index. Pp. ix, 91. \$3.50.

Nationalism is at once a concept so gross and so freighted with ideological passion as to make difficult if not utterly to confound academic agreement on its essential core of meaning. Professor Whitaker, in this collection of three American civilization lectures at the University of Florida, prefers not a definition as such but rather "a description of the manifold functions that the complex ideas of nationalism has performed in the hands of the highly assorted groups . . . [that] at various times and places . . . [have] made nationalism one of the dominant ideas of the modern age" [p. 7]. This function is more specifically that of "an instrument of integration and the realization of desired goals" [p. 24]. What the author has done then, without undue polemical fuss, is to adjust the historical approach and his own personal bent to that portion of the literature supplied by such writers as Carr, Deutsch, Emerson, and others of institutional persuasion who have treated nationalism as somehow descriptive of the extent and quality of effective community. The merit of this approach is that it permits relationships to be drawn among the nation, social class, ideology, and the general institutional order, thus avoiding the essentially tautological ambiguity and sterility of treating nationalism only as disembodied "idea" or "secular religion."

The first lecture draws a historical and conceptual baseline from European experience, which is then applied specifically to the Argentine case in the second chapter, and in the last is extended to questions of "continental nationalism" in Latin America and its effect on the