

nism is the alternative to the established order overlooks the fact and strength of the military. Add the church and the ultimate power of the United States; then, it does not seem likely that communism could take over, even if men like Frondizi and Quadros cannot effect the reforms and production needed. The interests of this trilogy of power are antithetical to communism. And there is no reason why Latin America could not continue under semi-militarism as a countervailing power to the threat of communism.

In the main, the monograph restates general problems with helpful statistics, showing the growing Sino-Soviet interest and activity in Latin America.

JOHN MARTINEZ

Arizona State University

COLONIAL PERIOD

Lecciones de California. By ALFONSO TEJA ZABRE. México, 1962. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Publicaciones del Instituto de Historia. No. 63. Indices. Pp. 163. Paper.

The author's intention is to present episodes of dramatic and human interest to illustrate certain aspects of California history. Selecting topics of regional history which would be largely unknown to Mexican nationals, Teja Zabre has borrowed liberally, though somewhat indiscriminately, from both standard and questionable works in an effort to demonstrate to his reading public that non-Mexican authors have a distinctly different point of view concerning the Hispanic periods of California history—an evaluation not burdened by apology or religious motives. As a result, the "foreign historians can judge such features as the missionaries and their work with serenity and even coolness, and at times with reservations that it is well to understand and analyze to obtain a more complete picture of events and of men."

Most prominently treated episodes concern the role of José de Gálvez, the

Rezanof-Concepción Argüello courtship, and the difficulties of Mexican Governor Mariano Chico. The laudable ambition of attempting to clarify for his fellow countrymen the record of pre-American California is to be commended; but it is startling to learn how little is known south of the border concerning the bibliography of English language sources for regional history. Little new or noteworthy material is presented, and the author frequently engages in the very questionable practice of bodily lifting footnote type references from Bancroft's *History of California* without acknowledgment of his debt to that author. Dozens of typographical mistakes, factual errors, and an inaccurate index further rob the work of any authority that it might possess to teach lessons about California.

DONALD C. CUTTER

University of New Mexico

Falso-facsimil del Acta del Cabildo Extraordinario del 20 de Julio de 1810. Edited and Introduction by FERNANDO RESTREPO URIBE. Bogotá, 1961. Editorial Kelly and Lito-Lucros. Pp. [20], 12. Velvet and Paper.

The original of the *Acta* which marked Bogotá's first open breach with Spanish rule was destroyed by fire in 1900. Fortunately it had been copied and printed in Bogotá, in 1848, 1872, and 1894. From these three published versions and from other samples of the handwriting of the *cabildo escribano*, Eugenio Martín Melendro, and of the signers, Dr. Fernando Restrepo Uribe, Executive Secretary of the Instituto Colombiano de Cultura Hispánica, has reconstructed what he carefully states to be a false-facsimile of the now-lost original.

As perfect as any such effort can be, this facsimile is on a well-imitated version of the pea-soup green *papel sellado* of the times, the purported inky text is faded brown, there are blots and rubrics of the scrivener and the

signatures of the patriot non-conformists.

Fifty velvet-bound copies of the Acta were distributed to the President of Colombia, the diplomatic corps in Bogotá, and to the heads of delegations at the III Congreso Hispanoamericano de Historia (Cartagena, November 9-17, 1961). Four hundred and fifty more, bound in paper, were printed.

This latest version of the Acta is accompanied by a supplemental pamphlet of editorial explanation by Dr. Restrepo Uribe.

Thus has the stirring action of the Bogotá patriots of July 20, 1810, been ingeniously and handsomely commemorated.

J. LEÓN HELGUERA

Vanderbilt University

Castillo de San Felipe del Golfo Dulce. Historia de las fortificaciones de Guatemala en la Edad Moderna. By MARIANA RODRÍGUEZ DEL VALLE. Sevilla, 1962. Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos de Sevilla. Maps. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Appendix. Pp. xiii, 103. Paper.

Río Dulce and Golfo Dulce (Lago de Izabal) were the artery of Guatemalan colonial commerce. Merchandise was unloaded at Puerto Caballos and stored upriver at the Golfo. Santo Tomás was then the port for 38 years. Unloading was back at Puerto Caballos until grasped by Omoa, Honduras, in 1779. To control Golfo Dulce, a round tower was built at its eastern end in 1596, but pirates crippled it the same year. The tower was rebuilt and reinforced in 1646 (Castillo de San Felipe), but it was burned by pirates in 1684. Another fort was erected in 1689, but the transfer of unloading to Omoa made it fade into ruin. At Santo Tomás, an artillery platform was built in 1607 (Fort San Francisco). To attract tourists, Guatemala restored San Felipe beginning in 1955.

This is the latest monograph in a series about the Caribbean fortifications in the Captaincy General of

Guatemala. The subject literature consists of José Antonio Calderón Quijano, "El Fuerte de San Fernando de Omoa," *Revista de Indias*, IX-XI (1942); "Un incidente militar en los establecimientos ingleses de Río Tinto (Honduras)," *Anuario de Estudios Americanos*, II (Sevilla, 1945), dealing with Fort Inmaculada Concepción; and *Las fortificaciones de Nueva España* (Sevilla, 1953), which includes Fort San Felipe de Bacalar, Yucatán; Juan Manuel Zapatero, "Del Castillo de San Fernando de Omoa, Antigua Audiencia de Guatemala," *Revista de Indias*, LII-LIII (1953); Roberto Trigueros studied another Fort Inmaculada Concepción in "Las defensas estratégicas del Río San Juan de Nicaragua," *Anuario de Estudios Americanos*, XI (Sevilla, 1954); and Isabel García Bruña's investigations on Fort San Fernando de Matina, Costa Rica. Forts at Trujillo and on Utila, Roatán, and Guanaja islands, all in Honduras, still wait for historical scrutiny. Some of these installations were systems of interconnected forts performing complex defensive missions.

Miss Rodríguez has written a very good general account of the Guatemalan forts and their military organization, arms, and administration, coordinating all these aspects very well. Students seeking an introduction to the subject will need this volume. Specialists, however, will find it of limited value. So shadowy is Fort San Francisco that its story has not really been told. Fort San Felipe fails to show fully its gradual construction through the years, despite the presence of some contemporary drawings and reports (Appendix II). The Ferrus drawings show that a lot of construction has not been accounted for. The 26 legajos in the Archivo General de Indias should have yielded more Ocampo-style reports to support a more sustained unfolding of the construction of the Guatemalan forts. This book nevertheless holds its place until a more advanced work appears.

LUIS RAFAEL ARANA

St. Augustine, Florida