

A History of Cuba and Its Relations with the United States. Volume I. 1492-1845. *From the Conquest of Cuba to La Escalera.* By PHILIP S. FONER. New York, 1962. International Publishers. Notes. Index. Pp. 255. \$3.75.

Too many of the American journalists and social scientists who have recently turned their attention to Cuban affairs write as if the history of that island began on January 1, 1959, or perhaps as far back as July 26, 1953. This shortened perspective leads them to pay too much attention to minor and as yet insoluble problems, and to ignore the long sweep and continuity of Cuban history. Thus they wrangle at great length about when Fidel Castro became attached to Communism, whether he originally intended to make a democratic revolution, and exactly how well or badly he was treated by U. S. officials when he came to this country in 1959. The result is to treat the last decade of the island's history as a footnote to Fidel's biography, and to minimize those aspects of the Cuban situation that have deep roots in the past.

Professor Philip S. Foner, whose previous books have all dealt with American history, has instead wisely and courageously tackled the Cuban story from the other end. In the present volume, which covers Cuban history from the beginning down to the slave revolt in Matanzas in 1844, he repeatedly shows how current controversies were foreshadowed one and two and three centuries ago. Here, in the loyalty of Peninsular priests to the Spanish Crown, is the origin of Castro's anti-clericalism. Here, in the Creole slaveholders' fear of revolts and consequent opposition to independence, is the beginning of today's division between *guajiro* and *gusano* (the *fidelist* epithet for all 'counterrevolutionaries'). Here is the distorted economy, underdeveloped and overspecialized, with sugar making up 84 per cent of exports as far back as 1851. And here, in the record of American intervention on the

side of Spain during the Monroe, Adams, and Tyler administrations, are the origins of Castro's bitter tirades against "Yanqui Imperialism."

While he writes from a definite *fidelist* viewpoint, Dr. Foner has not allowed his sympathies to swamp his careful scholarship. His book is well-written, accurate, and thoroughly researched, making abundant use of printed and manuscript sources in both English and Spanish: he makes no assertion that he cannot abundantly prove by direct quotation. The result is a work that can be set beside Robert F. Smith's *The United States and Cuba* (1960) as the best book on the subject to be published in many years. A second volume, covering the quarter of a century from 1845 to the beginning of the *guerra grande* in 1868, is to be published shortly, and can be awaited with great interest.

SAMUEL SHAPIRO

Michigan State University,
Oakland

La fundación de Barinas y vida heroica del capitán Juan Andrés Varela. By VIRGILIO TOSTA. Caracas, 1961. Editorial Sucre. Pp. 36. Paper.

On May 25, 1577, the city of Altamira de Cáceres was founded by Juan Andrés Varela, a Spanish captain from Galicia. The site for this city in western Venezuela, which today bears the name Barinas, was selected by Captain Varela because of the natural features it provided for defense against the Indians and because it offered a gateway to the llanos. The events involved in the founding of the city and the life of its founder are the subjects of the two essays contained in this short paper by Virgilio Tosta.

Sr. Tosta's accounts are good examples of the continuing nature of the Spanish conquest. Well into the period historians have labeled "colonial" and years after the Pizarros, Alvarados, and de Sotos, lesser-known conquistadors tramped Latin America's wildernesses in search of gold and glory. Like their predecessors, they fought among themselves and were plagued by the con-

flicting jurisdictions of viceroys and audiencias. Varela, himself, fought in the forces of the ill-starred Viceroy, Blasco Núñez de Vela. Although Tosta's research is not profound, he cites extensively from capitulations and encomienda grants contained in the collections of the Archivo Histórico de Bogotá. Given the woeful state of Latin American historiography for this period, the use of such archival material merits the attention of the serious historian.

CHARLES D. AMERINGER
Bowling Green State University

Historia de la ciudad de La Paz. Siglo XVII. By ALBERTO CRESPO R. Lima, 1961. Imprenta Gráfica. Notes. Appendix. Pp. 211. Paper.

The Bolivian writer, Alfonso Crespo, wrote in 1944 a biography of Andrés de Santa Cruz. It was an adequate book but lacking in true scholarship. This book is written by Alfonso's brother, Alberto. Therefore one must point out that he is not the author of the Santa Cruz biography. There is a tendency to confuse the brothers. In 1955 Alberto wrote a good study titled *La Guerra entre Vicuña y Vascongados. Potosí, 1622-1625*.

Alberto Crespo's new book is an excellent one. It is one of the best historical studies to have come from a Bolivian pen in recent years. Really the title is misleading. The book is more than La Paz during the seventeenth century. It is, rather, a good view—based on original documentation—of Upper Peru during this century with La Paz as the cornerstone of the story. It is needless to say that this century is the neglected one, especially in the annals of Bolivian history. All aspects of the century are well discussed and much new information is unearthed.

Two matters have caught my attention. There is the tremendous number of revolts—*tumultos y motines*. These were not against the royal authority but against local officials and problems. The spirit of disorder which was passed

on to all later centuries was already deeply entrenched during the seventeenth century. The second matter is the eternal dispute as to the exact status of the encomienda and repartimiento and their differences or interrelationships. In reading Crespo one realizes that there is not one definition of these institutions possible. Time and place are important. The way Crespo sketches them from bona fide documents is at variance with the encomienda and repartimiento in New Spain. Or has Crespo misunderstood the true nature of both institutions? At any rate, this is a stimulating book.

CHARLES W. ARNADE
University of South Florida

Arquitectura Virreinal en Bolivia. By HAROLD E. WETHEY. Compiled and translated by JOSÉ DE MESA and TERESA GISBERT. La Paz, 1960-1961. Instituto de Investigaciones Artísticas. Facultad de Arquitectura. Universidad Mayor de San Andrés. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 198.

The combination of Professor Wethey from Ann Arbor and the Mesa couple spells excellence. This is a top flight book. Wethey admits in his modest way that until the rich documentation available, especially in the National Archives in Sucre, is systematically studied no definitive work about colonial architecture is possible, and he has not attempted to produce one.

Most of the contents of this book have previously been published in articles in such magazines as the *Gazette des Beaux-Arts*, *Art Quarterly*, and others. The Mesas, in close collaboration with Dr. Wethey, have done a good job of selection and translation and in view of new data additions have been undertaken. The book is, as the Mesas say, "la primera aportación a la historia de la Arquitectura Boliviana." It sketches the colonial architecture of Bolivia of the 16th, 17th, 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries. There is one chapter on Sucre in the 17th century. Two excellent chapters