

activities is restricted to North America and northeast South America, with which the author is familiar as a professor of history at the University of Caracas.

Elsewhere the author is preoccupied with the subject of human slavery but does not dilate upon the dreadful record of the D.W.I.C. in the Caribbean. He devotes a chapter of three pages to a royal cédula designed to protect Negroes and Indians in the *encomiendas* and translates into Spanish an antislavery resolution of the Mennonite Calvinistic sect meeting in Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1688. This is irrelevant to his subject, as is a translation into Spanish of the Mayflower Resolution of 1620. The book contains a variety of other materials, including a comparison of various European colonial policies, a description of early Spanish laws regarding the *encomienda* system in the West Indies, and a translation into Spanish of Peter Stuyvesant's report of the surrender of New Netherlands to the English in 1666. There is a decree by Simón Bolívar in 1818 condemning contraband evasion of customs. Six pages describe a frontier dispute between Venezuela and Great Britain, and thirteen pages are devoted to sketches of the overseas, largely oriental colonies of Denmark, Sweden, and of the Hanseatic states.

The twenty-page bibliography is overexpanded and irrelevant in many instances, and the same may be said of the copious footnotes. The six-page chronology of dates running from 1528 to 1917 has some merit but is not wholly applicable to the title. Two charts of Guiana dated 1798 and 1887 are partly indecipherable; a simple explanatory drawing of the area would be much more useful. Despite these shortcomings Professor Bello is to be commended for extensive research and an interesting and informative presentation. He has made a contribution to the history of northeast South America.

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CHARLES MCKEW PARR

Los intereses particulares en la conquista de la Nueva España. 2nd ed. by SILVIO A. ZAVALA. México, 1964. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Bibliography. Pp. 89.

The Defence of Human Rights in Latin America (Sixteenth to Eighteenth Centuries). By SILVIO A. ZAVALA. Paris, 1964. UNESCO. Race and Society. Bibliography. Pp. 65. Paper.

Silvio Zavala's analysis of private interests in early colonial Mexico was originally prepared as his doctoral thesis and first published in

1933. It is reissued by the Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas as a work that is still important though long out of date.

Three categories of interest are recognized. The crown, unable to implement conquest in other ways, first contracted with individual conquistadores and later asserted a direct power. The Church accepted responsibility for conversion and later won a strong economic position. Both crown and church competed with the private interests that are the main subject of investigation. The Hernández de Córdoba expedition provides a classic case of contract, useful to the historian for its purity and simplicity. Cortés' enterprise is characteristic in another way. In separating from the direction of Velásquez, in assuming political authority in Mexico, and in appropriating and granting favors despite royal prohibitions, Cortés manifested a private will that transcended the conditions of contract. Velásquez is seen as an *empresario capitalista* (p. 34), Cortés as the delegated depository of the interests of a capitalist group. Cortés and Velásquez clashed in a conflict whose juridical implications are here emphasized. Private parties undertook conquests without license, established unauthorized regimes, illegally took encomiendas, and further demonstrated an independence of spirit.

Morality rather more than legality is the subject of the second work, *The Defence of Human Rights in Latin America*, published in the Race and Society series by UNESCO. This reviews the Spanish discussions concerning the justice of conquest and the nature of the Indian from their early colonial origins through the eighteenth century. Based directly on Zavala's *La filosofía política en la conquista de América* (México, 1947), the publication recapitulates earlier research without contributing new material for students of the 1960s. It has the merit of providing a selection of references and quotations on the elevated aspirations of Spanish expansionists, but it is a less scholarly work than *Los intereses particulares* and more consciously defensive with regard to the colonial regime.

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Principios críticos sobre el virreinato de la Nueva España y sobre la revolución de independencia. By AGUSTÍN RIVERA. México, 1963. Comisión Nacional para las Conmemoraciones Cívicas de 1963. Index. Pp. 955.

Agustín Rivera, one of Mexico's savants of the nineteenth century, spent a number of years attempting to write a balanced account of the