

Foreign merchants entered Mexico very early in the independence period and not after 1827 as a result of the expulsion. Furthermore, the expulsion had little to do with Mexico's economic decline, because those who were forced to leave were poor and had little to take with them, while those with wealth and influence were able to obtain exemptions. Some wealthy merchants were expelled, but they left creoles in charge of their affairs. It is more likely that Mexico's economic decline can be attributed to the world financial crisis of 1826 that led to the bankruptcy of the London banks which held Mexico's funds, to the subsequent contraction of English investment in Mexico, and to the plagues which ravaged the country in 1827.

Flores has made an important contribution to a period of Mexican history conspicuous for the paucity of well-researched monographs. Because it demolishes old myths and raises many new questions, it will be necessary for students of Mexico to reevaluate these years in light of *La Contrarrevolución en la independencia de México*. Although the author has a clear and engaging style, he ends the book abruptly, and one regrets that he did not include a final chapter reviewing the complex subject. He is to be highly commended, however, for including an analytical index; let us hope that future publications of El Colegio de México will follow this precedent.

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Documentos históricos de la Revolución Mexicana. Vol. XV: *Revolución y régimen constitucionalista*. Edited by JOSEFINA E. DE FABELA. México, 1969. Editorial Jus. Illustrations. Pp. 270. \$40.00. (Mex.).

Until recently Mexican reviewers of the *Documentos históricos* have had at least one advantage over their North American counterparts—there are two good words in Spanish for volume (tomo and volumen). Those of us restricted to English have found it necessary to use the awkward and less descriptive word tome to distinguish a set of bound pages from the volume of which it is a part. But now the organization of the series has become so complex that even the Mexicans have run out of descriptive phrases. Under consideration here is XV, Volumen 3º del Tomo I. How shall we ever cite it in a bibliography? If the Comisión de Investigaciones Históricas de la Revolución Mexicana were to begin its endeavors anew, the cumbersome organization could be avoided. But one must remember that the project now spans

a full decade, and that the problems have been enormous. Isidro Fabela, the original editor, died several years ago, and direction was assumed by colleagues; the publisher had to be changed after the first five volumes were in print. And most important, it was impossible to determine in 1960 what documents worthy of publication would be uncovered in 1968 or 1969. In short, the ungainly structure of the set is a small price to pay for the service it performs.

Volume XV comprises 117 chronologically arranged documents covering the period from January 1914 to January 1915. Although a few sundry dispatches refer tangentially to the Tampico incident and the Veracruz invasion (including the seldom-mentioned position of the Huerta government that the whaleboat carrying the sailors was not flying the American flag), the student interested in these topics would do better to concentrate his efforts on Volumes II and III. Of greater interest here is the correspondence of the rebel leadership in the north. Through a careful examination of the letters and telegrams prior to and immediately after Huerta's resignation (July 15, 1914), one can trace many of the causes for the growing hostility between the Villistas and Carrancistas. This, in turn, renders more intelligible the subsequent schism between Conventionists and Constitutionalists and, indeed, sheds light on the whole complex subject of factionalism in the Mexican Revolution.

As I have indicated in previous reviews, the Comisión is projecting a total of 23 volumes. With each successive publication the desirability of a 24th becomes more obvious to those of us who use the series regularly. I am suggesting the growing need for a general index divided in two parts: a chronological listing of all the documents published, for those interested in a specific and restricted period of time; and a comprehensive index of names, for those interested in tracing the elusive careers of such fascinating characters as Felix Sommerfeld, Abraham Ratner, José Inés Salazar, or Francisco Cárdenas. Nobody would envy the Comisión such an onerous task, but the community of Mexicanists would be forever in its debt.

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El ejército mexicano (1911-1965). By JORGE ALBERTO LOZOYA. México, 1970. El Colegio de México. Notes. Appendix. Bibliography. Pp. 128.

“Depoliticized” or “apolitical” are terms frequently employed by scholars to describe the contemporary posture of Mexico's army.