

(the State never relinquished its formal jurisdiction over all subjects, *encomendero* and *encomendado* included) while recognizing the *de facto* control of landowner over peon; he eschews the term “gentry” arguing that Chilean landowners had neither the capitalist impulse of sixteenth-century Englishmen nor the cultural refinement of the Chinese ruling class. The closest parallel, Góngora believes, can be found in the estate systems of Prussia and Poland; but the problem with this, in my view, is the absence in Chile of an authentic peasant community and culture.

In the end, Chilean rural settlement and development was certainly unusual if not unique. When examined inductively, from the sources, we are able to understand not only its peculiar features but, through comparison, the larger pattern of Spanish American settlement and society. No one has contributed more to this understanding over the past three decades than Mario Góngora; and this recent book, patiently researched, carefully thought through, and plainly written is a valuable addition.

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The Presidio: Bastion of the Spanish Borderlands. By MAX L. MOORHEAD. Norman, 1975. University of Oklahoma Press. Illustrations. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiii, 288. Cloth. \$9.95.

At Santa Fe during the initial meeting of the Western History Association, in 1961, France V. Scholes, dean of the Borderlanders, in reviewing the historiography of that segment of American history, noted that the narrative story has been well told but called attention to the fact that the field was in serious need of institutional studies, beyond that of the mission. Professor Moorhead has answered that challenge for one of the key institutions of the northern frontier of New Spain, and done so with skill and much insight.

Part I of his study traces the “Historical Evolution” of the presidio from the years of the Chichimeco War of the sixteenth into the busy decades of the later eighteenth century, when it became the major agency of Spanish control in the north. The presidio had already been “Americanized” by the time of the Great Northern Revolt, but in the eighteenth century the development was even more pronounced. Using the *Reglamentos* of 1729 and 1772, resulting from the visitations of Pedro de Rivera and the Marqués de Rubí, respectively, the various reforms of Teodoro de Croix, the *Instrucción* of 1786 (Bernardo de Gálvez), and finally the policies of later Commandants of

Provincias Internas, Moorhead builds his story, evaluating the decrees and policies themselves and the record of their implementation.

Valuable as is this historical “half” of the study, Part II (“Descriptive Analysis”) is even more so; the study revolves around topical heads. “The Fort” sketches the physical evolution of the presidio, from a quasi-medieval castle-fortress to a complex of less imposing but infinitely more practical flat structures, constructed of the materials of the environment and better adapted to protect against a largely nomadic enemy. “The Presidial Company” is a fine piece of social history, analyzing as it does the make-up of the soldier force, in which pure-blood Spaniards were definitely in the small minority. The author has included in this chapter much information on the equipment of the frontier soldier, arms and armor, with a most enlightening section on his leather coat, the *cuero*. The discussion of “The Payroll” touches the economy of the frontier, as well as the reimbursement of the frontier soldiery. Surprisingly, the hundreds of thousands of pesos which annually supported the defense in the north very regularly benefited the farther north very little; a large measure of the supplies needed, in clothing, food, and other necessities, had to be purchased in the nearer interior. The patterns of payment, the role of the presidio captains, and connected matters receive considerable treatment. In time and with official encouragement the presidios became nuclei of “Civilian Settlement,” not only for the families of the garrisons, but also for other emigrants; many modern northern towns go back to presidio beginnings. “The Indian Reservation” study shows the Spaniards well ahead of their times in experimentation with this system of control; the presidio, especially in regard to the Apaches, was an early Indian agency. In his concluding pages Professor Moorhead offers the following short definition of the presidio: “It was first and foremost a garrisoned fort presiding over a military district. . . . It was most often situated strategically in hostile terrain, forming an enclave of Spanish civilization and Christianity. . . . Its garrison was a company of quasi-regular troops, paid by the royal treasury but regulated by special ordinances, armed and mounted for the peculiar contingencies of Indian warfare, and recruited increasingly from the frontier region itself.”

Included are twenty-one plates reproducing the plans of the presidios drawn by José Urrutia during the Rubí visitation; and five excellent maps, detailing, by period, the geographic picture of the northern frontier defense line. In every way this book is a major contribution to Borderland studies—widely researched, presented in most

orderly fashion, and written in a clear and very readable style. Later institutional historians of the Borderlands have a fine model to match.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

Gaúcho Politics in Brazil: The Politics of Rio Grande do Sul, 1930–1964. By CARLOS E. CORTÉS. Albuquerque, 1974. University of New Mexico Press. Maps. Illustrations. Index. Pp. xii, 252. Cloth. \$12.00.

To map the shifting interplay of state with federal politics in Brazil over the turbulent period from 1930 to 1964 is a task of no mean proportion or value. Carlos Cortés attempts that and more. By arguing that Rio Grande do Sul deliberately and decisively circumscribed the actions of national political figures, most dramatically those of Getúlio Vargas between 1930 and 1937, but also those of João Goulart in the 1960s, Cortés gives bold interpretive shape to that mapping.

In the protracted and often bitter struggle between Rio Grande Governor Flôres da Cunha and Dictator/President Vargas, the lines were firmly drawn: state autonomy and constitutional authority versus central and personal power. Cortés places Flôres at the fulcrum of Vargas' power. In 1932, for example, Flôres was able to maintain Vargas in national office against the combined opposition of São Paulo and Rio Grande by blocking the military support pledged São Paulo by Gaúchos Borges de Medeiros and Raul Pilla. But Flôres was not always so loyal. Assuring military protection necessary for a constituent assembly to meet, Flôres maneuvered, in 1934, to force on Vargas a national constitution. Later, Vargas, determined to re-establish dictatorship and the Estado Nôvo, and Góes Monteiro, equally determined to create a unified and obedient national military, both saw Flôres as their final adversary. Forced into exile, Flôres' defeat "signaled the destruction of state autonomy [and] . . . assured the return of dictatorship to the tired nation" (p. 88).

For all that is intriguing and challenging in Cortés' account, there is much he considers too briefly to render it convincing as explanation. What state autonomy and central authority meant, how they came to be defining issues, how they were played out in the precise actions of precise men at precise moments are details to which Cortés is unalert. How was it that one man could so confound Vargas' moves?