

objects of domestic devotion remained within families as a result of patterns of female inheritance. Another notable feature is the remarkable degree of homogeneity among the pious artifacts recorded in the four cities. Such homogeneity might be indicative of broader parameters of household Catholicism for the whole viceroyalty.

This study treats domestic religious practices, a remarkably interesting and yet unexplored subject in colonial Latin America. However, the specific essays focused on each of the cities limit themselves to meticulous description of the objects under analysis. In so doing, they fail to provide the reader with fuller interpretations and broader parameters of comparison. Nonetheless, the four studies successfully stress the significance of domestic artifacts for understanding forms of private spirituality. In sum, by showing Catholicism in the household arena, *Imaginería y piedad privada* offers an engaging and provocative change of perspective on religion in colonial Latin America.

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## National Period

*Cities of Hope: People, Protests, and Progress in Urbanizing Latin America, 1870–1930.*

Edited by RONN PINEO and JAMES A. BAER. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1998.

Photographs. Maps. Tables. Figures. Notes. Index. xiv, 285 pp. Cloth, \$74.00.

Despite the importance of Latin American cities and a flurry of interest in their study during the 1960s and 1970s, the history of these urban centers has received surprisingly little scholarly attention. The editors of this volume aim to remedy this deficiency by focusing on a variety of Latin American urban areas during a period when export-led growth stimulated modernization and significant demographic expansion. In so doing they and their contributors seek “to provide a strong empirical account of the basic conditions in the city” (p. 8) and, in particular, to focus on the lives and labor of ordinary citizens and how their protests against urban conditions led to movements for reform.

The chapter by David Sowell on Bogotá describes the interaction between the city’s popular classes and the dominant Liberal and Conservative parties. He concludes that minor accommodations by the elite, combined with occasional repression, led to a modernization of the capital that primarily served the upper classes, while relegating the popular classes to a subordinate position. In his chapter on Mexico City, John Lear argues that the particular dynamics of the Mexican experience allowed urban workers to emerge “from the revolution with a considerable level of organization and significance in the power structure” (p. 54). In another study of Mexico, Andrew Grant Wood describes how unique conditions in Veracruz led to ongoing negotiations between the political leadership and popular groups, in which women played an important role. Although in the 1920s these negotiations led to significant housing reforms that “looked good on paper, . . . successful enforcement proved to be extremely difficult” (p.

115). James Baer also examines housing reform, but in Buenos Aires. He shows how tenants organizations and interests pressured the Radical government of Hipólito Yrigoyen to implement new rental laws and housing programs in the 1920s. Baer links these developments to what he describes as the decline of the "Liberal State" and the growth of state intervention in social and economic affairs.

Chapters by David Parker on Lima, Ronn Pineo on Valparaíso, and Sam Adamo on Rio de Janeiro all deal with the generally neglected area of public health. Not surprisingly, they conclude that it was the poor of the city who suffered the most from epidemics and other diseases. But not only were they the segment of the population most affected, they were often seen as the main cause of disease, given the conditions in which they lived and their allegedly "unhealthy" habits. While improvements in public health in these cities were often dramatic, in this regard they generally lagged behind their European and North American counterparts, primarily, the authors argue, because the local elites lacked the political will to eradicate the conditions of poverty that produced high rates of infant mortality and reduced life expectancy among urban dwellers.

Sharon Philipps Collazos's contribution describes the development of Panama and Colón. She stresses their dependence on the United States and argues that divisions between native-born workers and those imported from the Caribbean to construct the canal prevented the emergence of unified working-class resistance to poor working and living conditions, especially outside the Canal Zone. In a chapter dealing with Montevideo, Anton Rosenthal uses a description of the streetcar system to reveal patterns of urban growth and the development of the city's streets and transportation system as "contested public space."

In a concluding chapter, Pineo and Baer seek to tie these various essays together. They see as common themes issues of public health and a concern with urban housing conditions and costs. They argue that the push for urban reform came primarily from the working classes, either through formal organizations or informal means of protest. The push for reform was most successful, they conclude, when the working class was able to ally with middle-class political parties. They admit, however, that "the possibilities for urban social reform in Latin America in these years were largely determined by the nature and performance of the economy" (p. 270). In the final analysis, they conclude, it was the Latin American elite that was largely responsible for urban growth and urban reform during the decades under study.

Overall, this is a useful and informative collection. While the essays often draw on other works of the respective authors, they are original, well researched, written in a generally jargon-free and engaging manner, and designed especially for this volume. The coverage is good, providing information on a range of cities of various types, sizes, and locations. While there is a considerable variety, there is also enough of an emphasis on basic issues to allow for useful comparisons. The emphasis on the popular classes, the ordinary citizens of these cities, may occasionally overstate their influence, and relatively little is said about the nuts and bolts of municipal governance. Nonetheless, the

editors and contributors are to be commended for producing a volume that makes a valuable addition to our understanding of Latin America's urban growth and of the social history of the region.

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*The Gendered Worlds of Latin American Women Workers: From Household and Factory to the Union Hall and Ballot Box.* Edited by JOHN D. FRENCH and DANIEL JAMES.

Comparative and International Working-Class History. Durham: Duke University Press, 1997. Photographs. Tables. Figures. Notes. Index. viii, 320 pp. Cloth, \$54.95. Paper, \$17.95.

In their introduction, editors John French and Daniel James define the current challenge for labor historians of Latin America: "to produce fully gendered accounts of class formation and working-class subjectivity." The interesting, if unbalanced collection of nine articles in this anthology does suggest various ways to "rethink the categories . . . [and] broaden our understanding of working-class identities for both men and women" (p. 6). The articles study worker subjectivity without ignoring material and structural constraints, and they are well written in jargon-free language.

These well-documented articles by historians focus primarily on industrial labor, mostly in urban settings during the period of the 1930s to 1950s in a few countries; three articles focus on São Paulo, Brazil; two on Berisso, Argentina; two on Chile (Aconcagua and El Teniente); one on Guatemala City; and one on Medellín, Colombia. They draw creatively on a rich variety of sources—including oral testimony, court records of domestic conflict, factory personnel, and disciplinary records—to explore connections between the material conditions of workers' lives and their varied consciousness and identities. Although women are the subjects of most articles, their identities are shown to be constructed in relationship to men's identities, and two authors—Deborah Levenson-Estrada and Thomas Klubock—include fascinating and suggestive (if brief) discussions of the complex and ambiguous construction of working-class masculinity.

Oral histories stand at the center of the majority of the articles, providing both rich evidence and raising interesting issues about how to use such documents. Daniel James and Deborah Levenson-Estrada study the different paths of two female labor activists—Doña María and Sonia Oliva—both of whom are keenly aware of how gendered ideology shaped their experiences. James views Doña María as living in unresolved tension between her self-image of the good wife and mother and the irreverent rebel girl turned Peronist labor activist. In contrast, Levenson-Estrada shows how Sonia Oliva's union activism in the 1970s in Guatemala City grew out of and reinforced her highly self-conscious rebellion against female familial roles and gender norms.

Oliva's "lonely grassroots feminism" (as Levinson-Estrada terms it), does not accurately characterize the consciousness of most of the women workers discussed in this anthology. Those who took the "unfeminine" step of working for wages generally "lived