

A final strength of this exemplary text is the inclusion of excerpts from primary documents in each chapter. Preceded by informative headnotes, the documentary selections illuminate and enhance Smith's narrative. These materials, drawn primarily from women's writings, include poems, speeches, political testaments, reform tracts, stories, and letters. Smith has thus written not only a superb historical synthesis, but she has also made rich documentary material easily accessible for students. Instructors of general European survey courses and European women's history courses will find *Changing Lives* a splendid text.

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**Mark A. Burkholder & Lyman L. Johnson.** *Colonial Latin America.* New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990. Pp. x, 360. Cloth, \$34.00; paper, \$13.95.

It is fitting to look at *Colonial Latin America* in terms of efforts to invigorate the teaching of history in behalf of education, citizenship, and civilized discourse in a conflict-ridden and diverse world. In this milieu, the colonial history of Latin America can be exceedingly serviceable. The subject's difficulty is not the real problem; the entire historical enterprise is daunting, full of surprises and mystery, and hard to fit into the mold of easy generalizations. The problem lies rather in the historical profession's responsibility to bring subject matter to life and demonstrate this liveliness to students who may then become energized by it.

In this effort, texts on the pre-revolutionary history for lands inhabited for millennia by native peoples, and conquered and settled predominantly by Spain and Portugal, have been singularly uninspiring for many American college students. *Colonial Latin America* by two able and accomplished scholars, appears not likely to become an exception. Yet Professors Burkholder and Johnson present excellent material well and in clear, straight-forward prose. Their well-edited synthesis nicely incorporates important findings of reasonably prolific and highly creative researchers, who in recent decades have mined archives and made significant advances in knowledge, in particular concerning colonial Latin America's economy and society.

The didactic problem, in large part, is one of organizing and presenting the material, and surely no single strategy will be satisfactory. The authors here follow a rather conventional route. In eight chapters, beginning with America and Iberia before the European conquest, they also cover the age of conquest; the structure of empire and church; population, labor, and slavery; the economy; social life; expansion of imperial domains; and the growth of revolutionary and independence movements into potent forces.

The first three and the last two chapters of *Colonial Latin America* offer a basic chronological presentation of material, with the usual separations in each between the Spanish and Portuguese areas. The fourth, fifth, and sixth chapters focus on demographic, economic, and social developments during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. "Living in an Empire," the sixth and longest chapter, for example, presents the elements of social existence in colonial Latin America, with attention to earning a living, race, class, marriage, the family, and culture. It is organized by category, with information about Brazil generally integrated within that about the Spanish-controlled lands. Such discussion by category seems more prevalent, in the text, than narrative exposition; both are helpful, but students may have some trouble integrating the information without the assistance of frameworks provided by instructors in the form of lectures or study outlines and notes.

The book contains no maps; the illustrations are useful but relatively few in number. A significant list of additional readings appears at the end of each chapter, but annotations would have made them more useful. A glossary of terms offers minimal definitions; here, as well, more well-developed statements linking the terms to events and the text would likely have been a benefit to readers.

This reviewer has no immediate remedy for the dilemma discussed here. To note contrasts, one may gain perspective by examining two dated standbys: Bailey W. Diffie's *Latin-American Civilization: Colonial Period* (1945), a large volume with good pictures and maps; and the first third of Hubert Herring's *A History of Latin America, from the Beginnings to the Present* (3rd. ed., 1968), with its excellent maps and bibliography. A third text, E. Bradford Burns's relatively short *Latin America: A Concise Interpretive History* (4th ed., 1986), contains nowhere near the amount of information that *Colonial Latin America* provides because, in part, it moves up to the present era. But Burns engages the minds of students, without oversimplifying the entire study, by employing clear categories of analysis—tradition, class, race, conflict, and power—throughout the book.

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