

*La Provincia de Tunja en el Nuevo Reino de Granada. Ensayo de Historia Social (1539-1800).* By GERMÁN COLMENARES. Appendices transcribed by MARÍA CRISTINA MURRELO. Bogotá, 1970. Universidad de los Andes. Departamento de Historia. Map. Tables. Appendices. Pp. 283. Paper.

This book is a significant and well-documented contribution to the social history of the New Kingdom of Granada. This monograph should be studied in conjunction with a whole series of socio-economic and demographic articles that appeared in the issues of the *Anuario Colombiano de Historia Social y de la Cultura* under the able editorship of Jaime Jaramillo Uribe.

Germán Colmenares is a young and promising Colombian historian who has already published extensively. Among his monographs are *Partidos políticos y clases sociales*, *Las haciendas de los jesuitas en el Nuevo Reino de Granada*, and *Fuentes coloniales para la historia del trabajo en Colombia*. He is currently writing his doctoral thesis with Fernand Braudel in Paris on the growth and development of the mining industry in the New Kingdom. If the high quality of his past performance is any indication, we may look forward to the eventual publication of a mature and exciting book.

The two most outstanding contributions of this volume are a meticulous study of the decline of the Indian population of the old colonial province of Tunja and some thoughtful analysis of the social implications of this demographic revolution. Tunja then embraced a good deal of the territory from the Sabana north to San Cristóbal and on the west from the valley of the Magdalena to the eastern slopes of the other cordillera, an area of dense Indian population before the conquest.

From a careful study of the records of a series of visitas to the province in addition to other documentary sources, Colmenares has constructed a population curve in which the Indian population spiraled from 196,800 in 1551 to a mere 24,892 in 1755. Such a demographic loss coincides with what happened to the Indian populations in other areas of the Spanish empire in America. As the Indians declined, the creoles and, in particular, the mestizos multiplied. In the early seventeenth century large zones of the province were "reserved" (the *resguardos*) in community ownership for the still dense Indian population, under which arrangement the Indians enjoyed the usufruct but not title in fee simple. By the middle of the eighteenth century one consequence of the demographic revolution was a sustained pressure by the creoles and the mestizos who hungered for the extensive, often fertile

but not efficiently cultivated lands of the Indian *resguardos*. Prior to 1755 non-Indian encroachments on the *resguardos* occurred under several subterfuges, such as *cofradías* and settlers leasing some of these lands at nominal rents. Between 1755 and the eve of the Comunero Revolution in 1781, a creole-dominated audiencia sought to “consolidate” the *resguardos*, with the result that a good deal of the community lands passed to private hands. This change was accomplished in the face of intense opposition from the Indians. This sharp reaction provided the major cause for the active participation of the Indians in the Revolution of the Comuneros. The reversal of the policy of consolidation after 1778 by the viceregal authorities may be one of the origins of the loyalty of many Indian communities to the royalist cause during the subsequent wars of independence.

Colmenares has added both new data and new insights to these questions, which, however, still merit further study. A series of statistical charts and primary sources adds to the usefulness of the volume. That the book is poorly reproduced on off-set need not detain us. What is important is that Germán Colmenares’ latest publication cannot be neglected by anyone interested in social change in the New Kingdom of Granada.

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*Padrón de los indios de Lima en 1613*. Edited by NOBLE DAVID COOK.

Lima, 1968. Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos. Facultad de Letras. Charts. Notes. Pp. xv, 547. Paper.

The study of the “little men” of a society is fraught with difficulties, not the least of which is the considerable bias of historical records in favor of the rich and powerful, whose affairs make up a proportion of the paperwork of a society far greater than the proportion of their members in relation to the population as a whole. In such a study, as in the study of any social group of considerable size and diversity, the problem of sources often becomes critical. One type of source which has recently attracted much attention is the notarial records. While these records can be used with great profit, it is difficult to reconstruct from them alone the representative life histories possible for more prominent sectors of a society, or to calculate the validity of the picture obtained from them for the group under study as a whole, since an important proportion of the transactions undertaken by members of the lower groups undoubtedly took place without the intervention of a notary, whose services cost money that could be utilized for more pressing necessities. When dealing with the lower