

and historical evidence. Historians of all regions will learn something from this book, as will students of colonialism and cultural development.

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The Castilian Crisis of the Seventeenth Century: New Perspectives on the Economic and Social History of Seventeenth-Century Spain. Edited by I. A. THOMPSON and BARTOLOMÉ YUN CASALLILA. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Maps. Graphs. Tables. Figures. Appendixes. Notes. Index. xiv, 328 pp. Cloth. \$64.95.

This welcome volume is a collection of essays written by Spanish historians on the socioeconomic history of seventeenth-century Castile. Originally published between 1978 and 1990, most of the articles appeared in journals or collections nearly inaccessible outside Spain. Consequently, this revisionist scholarship was little known by non-Spanish historians, and it was not absorbed into the general currents of European and American historiography.

The translation and republication of these important essays (many updated for the occasion) makes available to non-Spanish readers a sample of the impressive historical scholarship in Spain during the past quarter-century. The editors (appropriately, historians from England and Spain) have chosen 13 works covering a wide variety of topics relating to Spain's seventeenth-century crisis (often called a depression). Subject matter includes reform programs, demographic changes, the agrarian situation, American trade, industrial and urban decline, the fiscal system, and resurgent seigniorialism.

The essays depict a complex Castile that defies generalizations. The country's economic and demographic crises followed different regional timetables and varied greatly in severity. Nevertheless, the impact on Castile as a whole helps explain why Spain for generations thereafter lagged behind other Western European countries in modernization.

This book will be useful to historians seeking to understand general European and world developments; and it should prove especially helpful to Latin Americanists investigating the rhythm of colonial development vis-à-vis the mother country. A 12-page introduction (unattributed, but apparently by I. A. A. Thompson) is a historiographical essay placing the book's other contributions in perspective. The concluding chapter is an essay by Bartolomé Yun Casalilla analyzing the lively historical debate on the nature of the crisis in Spain and in Europe. Synthesizing the volume's research and other works as well, Yun arrives at a number of judicious conclusions. He also asks numerous questions that future research needs to answer.

The volume lacks a general bibliography, but the footnotes in the individual essays provide a generous number of sources for further reading and research. The translations are of the highest quality, and the alphabetical general index greatly enhances the book's usefulness.

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