

of solidity and stability which afflicted the political, social, and economic organization of the colony in this vast territorial precinct'' (Introduction, p. 11). However debatable this view, she used it to justify devoting about sixty-five pages of her study to the consideration of the area's geographic features and the history of its colonization and evangelization, along with outstanding aspects of a political, social, and economic nature. The general period studied is that from 1567 to 1755 (though little is done to establish the significance of the dates given); the area involved is defined as including the present Mexican states of Coahuila, Nuevo León, and Tamaulipas, plus the eastern sections of Chihuahua and Durango.

The real need for a study concentrated upon the colonial history of northeast Mexico can hardly be debated; that this author has failed in her effort to provide one is hardly less debatable. Her grasp of the general history of colonial Mexico is weak, her knowledge of the output of modern scholarship inadequate. She has apparently used Mexican archival resources in her studies of the Indian wars of the northeast area, but she shows little acquaintance with the work of others who have used these resources, plus those of Spain. She has utilized the work of her mentor, Wigberto Jiménez Moreno, and she does show familiarity with some writings of François Chevalier and Vito Alessio Robles. There is no indication, however, of any acquaintance with Philip Wayne Powell's *Soldiers, Indians, and Silver* or the periodical articles which Powell has published over the years bearing upon this subject. She also seems unaware of many scholarly materials, published and unpublished, which would have provided her with data upon frontier defense, missionary activity, and economic, social, and political institutions and agencies, as well as information of a more immediately anthropological nature. It is no excuse that many of these studies are the product of United States scholars and the result of their interest in borderland and Mexican history and anthropology. Surely neither Mexican scholarly training nor Mexican library resources are so inadequate that studies of this slight worth should be published.

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C. NORMAN GUICE

The Kingdom of Quito in the Seventeenth Century. Bureaucratic Politics in the Spanish Empire. By JOHN LEDDY PHELAN. Madison, 1967. University of Wisconsin Press. Illustrations. Maps. Chart. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi. \$10.00.

Historians of the Spanish empire have often been reproached for

relying too much upon the evidence of Spanish legislation and too little upon that of local record. There is ground for the reproach, particularly where it concerns the main institutions of colonial government. "The *audiencia*," "the *cabildo*," and so forth, have often been described as mere legal mechanisms, without adequate consideration of the diverse and changing circumstances in which they had to work. John L. Phelan's book is of interest and value because—among other reasons—it is relentlessly specific. It is concerned with a particular area in a limited span of years, and with the activities of a particular group of officials.

The book falls into three well-defined sections. First, there is a detailed description of the area governed by the *audiencia* of Quito, with its three geographical zones—coast, Sierra, and Oriente. The author explains convincingly why the Spaniards, having turned the Sierra into the "sweatshop of South America," failed to conquer the fertile coastal plain, and penetrated only superficially the jungles of Oriente. He analyzes clearly the problems presented by a heterogeneous society; the policies pursued by the *oidores* of the governing *audiencia*, especially in the crucial fields of labor regulation and defense; and the parts played in the formulation of local policy by the *oidores* on the spot, by their superiors in Lima, and by the Council of the Indies. An attractive feature of this section is the way in which the *oidores* are presented, not as faceless functionaries, but as individuals. Some were very competent officials—notably the formidable Antonio de Morga, the distinguished historian of the Philippines, who served as president at Quito for twenty years.

The second part of the book is an assessment of the colonial bureaucracy, particularly the judiciary, as a trained and disciplined professional body. "The ideal of service," Phelan thinks "formed the backbone of the Spanish imperialist ethos" (p. 156); and he compares the *oidores* with another group of latter-day Platonic guardians, the Indian Civil Service in the nineteenth century. The glaring contrasts between ideal and reality, and the reasons for them, receive due and detailed attention, however; and the third section of the book is chiefly concerned with the mechanism of discipline and with the general *visita* of the Quito *audiencia*, begun in 1624 and completed in 1637. This visitation was not without elements of drama, which the author discreetly exploits; but his chief concern is with its effectiveness. He concludes, and we must agree, that the *visita general* was a blunt instrument for its purpose. Finally, in the last chapter, there is a "Weberian analysis" which leads to the conclusion that patrimonial, feudal, charismatic, and legal elements were all present, in

complex combination, in the government of the Spanish empire, as one would expect.

There are a few slips. The primitive practice described as "oath swearing" on p. 198 should more properly be called "oath helping." Modern Bolivia was *Upper Peru* in the seventeenth century (p. 45). Not everyone would accept the judgment that the French Revolution "brought about . . . the subsequent dissolution of the [Spanish] empire" (p. 175). There are a few misuses of words—oddly, in a book conspicuous in general for its clarity. "Ascension" for "accession" (of a king) might be ascribed to a typographical error, but that it occurs several times. "Jurist" is carelessly used as a synonym for "judge" or "lawyer." The metaphorical allusion to "echelons" engaged in a "tug-of-war" (p. 327) is something of a collector's item. But these are trivial complaints; Phelan's book is a distinguished work of scholarship, comprehensive, imaginative, convincing. It adds substantially to our intimate understanding of how the Spanish colonial government worked; and it is eminently readable.

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Documents Relating to Anson's Voyage Round the World, 1740-1744.

Edited by GLYNDWR WILLIAMS. London, 1967. Spottiswoode, Ballantyne and Company for the Navy Records Society. Publications of the Navy Records Society, 109. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Appendix. Index. Pp. xiii, 303. 50/-.

Glyndwr Williams of Queen Mary College, London, specializes in the history of exploration during the eighteenth century. He has published *British Search for the Northwest Passage in the 18th Century* (1962), *Expansion of Europe in the Eighteenth Century* (1967), and the book reviewed here.

Commodore Anson's voyage around the world constitutes one of the epics of British naval history and suggests the first of such memorable achievements, Drake's circumnavigation. In both cases Spain's empire bore the brunt of the attack. Anson's voyage has been narrated by successive writers, either singly or in collections. This is the first time, however, that many documents concerning it have been published. They are classified in chronological order and divided into six parts. Each part is preceded by an introduction stressing the points of interest in the documents. English as well as Spanish sources are presented, the latter in English translation.

The climax of the voyage was the capture of one of the galleons plying between Mexico and the Philippines. This was a rare feat in