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Social and Economic Change in Modern Peru by Rory Miller; Clifford T. Smith; John Fisher  
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*Social and Economic Change in Modern Peru*. Edited by Rory Miller, Clifford T. Smith, and John Fisher. Centre for Latin-American Studies Monograph Series, 6. Liverpool: University of Liverpool, 1977. Pp. 197, tables, maps. £2.75.

This volume's six essays were presented as papers at a conference in 1974, sponsored by the University of Liverpool. In their introduction Rory Miller and Clifford Smith attempt to thread a common theme among the papers, that of regional analysis of change. They also see a second linkage in the papers' concern with the state's impact on the economic process. Neither basis is a very convincing one for the grouping, whose only real similarities are that they all deal with Peru and present examples of recent British scholarship. Good as the essays individually are, readers should not expect to find a unified or even complementary treatment of a common theme in this volume.

John Fisher's lead essay on silver mining in late colonial Peru does not even deal with modern Peru. Rather, it examines the evidence on production and employment in the viceroyalty from around 1770 to 1824 and concludes that annual variations in silver supply were mainly attributable to fluctuations in the supply of mercury, with a major, if temporary surge in production towards the end of the period resulting from a particular technical innovation. Fisher finds that, contrary to the impression given in some accounts, Peruvian silver production rose to a peak in 1799 and remained relatively high until 1812. He offers glimpses of industrial organization, public policy, and social structure. The book to which this effort leads should afford an interesting comparative perspective on the more extensively examined case of mining in New Spain.

Rory Miller's essay on railway development between 1890 and 1930 examines its impact on mining and agriculture. Drawing on a variety of sources, Miller presents figures on pre-railway freight charges, noting the considerable variation in charges reported by route, by year, and, one must add, by source. The figures given indicate—not surprisingly—that freight rates fell substantially when mules and llamas were replaced by rail transport; and the resultant stimulation of mining in the highlands is scarcely going to astound most readers. It is useful, however, to have this confirmation of what one would expect. The impact of the rail lines on agriculture was, Miller notes, more varied, and although the essay does not provide a comprehensively systematic review of this sectorial relation, it does yield a number of interesting insights. Other observations concern the level of freight charges, backward linkages, and so on.

Rosemary Thorp and Geoff Bertram bring the focus a bit closer to the present by their skillful analysis of the factors affecting industrialization between 1890 and 1940. As a growing number of writers has recognized, for other Latin American countries as well as Peru early industrialization took place long before the mid-twentieth century's import-substitution programs or even before the small impetus provided by World War I. The authors assert too quickly, and inaccurately, that Peru's early industrial growth has hitherto been overlooked, but this is a minor flaw. Their exploration of the economic context which first encouraged and later hampered the expansion of secondary development not only aids our understanding of the dynamics of Peruvian economic history but also suggests new ways of reviewing the record of peripheral change in general. In particular, by eschewing the now-customary enclave explanatory approach, they endeavor to show that conventional economic analysis based on market interconnections clarifies most of what has occurred.

The chapter by Clifford Smith on agrarian reform enters a subject that has been far more widely scrutinized and commented on than any of the topics mentioned above. Moreover, the period dealt with is the present, at least from 1968 to the early 1970s. Smith's approach begins with policy advocacy (for a regionally differentiated approach to agrarian reform), looks at regional differences in the agrarian reform thus far carried out, and subjects to critical discussion the different institutional forms through which it has been developed. Smith concludes by assessing the problems that lie ahead in the implementation of the agrarian reform. A complementary essay by Colin Harding on "Agrarian Reform and Agrarian Struggles in Peru" covers somewhat the same thematic territory. As many readers will probably already have seen this essay in the recent volume on Peru edited by Abraham Lowenthal, no further description seems necessary except to say that Harding relies rather more than Smith on a narrative of events.

The concluding chapter, Bryan Roberts' social history of Huancayo for the 1890-1972 period, is one of the two most ambitious essays in the collection, the other being the Thorp-Bertram study of incipient and arrested industrialization. With the deftness of perception and sensitivity of interpretation that characterize most of Roberts' works, the essay previews subject matter that will be covered in much greater detail in two forthcoming volumes edited by Roberts and Norman Long. Roberts employs a refined type of class analysis, with a more subtle examination of the internal structures of dependency than is commonly made, to portray a complex mosaic of evolving relationships. His chapter is pretty much a *tour de force* in this genre. This richness of detail on social history, business history, and changing occupational structure is as impressive as it is enjoyable to read, but throughout the essay Roberts sure-footedly keeps in touch with the wider body of relevant scholarship, as indicated in references to the research of Geertz, Browning, and others. Were more scholars to develop similar local histories for Peru, avoiding both the common loose garb of atheoretic description and the scarcely less common theoretical straitjackets, then we should be much farther along in understanding the history of this surprisingly under-researched country. Had the other essays provided more parallels to the Roberts contribution, opening up the interregional comparative analysis of which the introduction somewhat misleadingly speaks, then the volume as a whole would conform far more closely to one's expectations.

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*The Development of the Economies of Continental Europe, 1850-1914.* By Alan S. Milward and S. B. Saul. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1977. Pp. 555.

When Britain really ruled the waves, things were much simpler. It experienced in succession, as Lillian Knowles told us, a commercial revolution, an agricultural revolution, and an industrial revolution. Their waves, which Britain ruled, washed other coasts—the Low Countries, New England, and the other island empire of the East, Japan. Penetration up the Seine, the Rhine, and the Po brought nationalism and industrial modernization. The French Revolution and Napoleon and the aristocratic and priestly reaction against them erected dykes, and in Eastern Europe, lords, peasants, creaky bureaucracies, armies, sultans, and czars entrenched themselves. When flooded at last, as in the pressures of the deep sea, the Continent exhibited