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Clerical punishment of Indians came under attack in the second and third generations after conquest in Central Mexico because clergy were thought to be intruding upon the prerogatives of royal authority. Nevertheless, McGee's perspective provides a provocative interpretation of the historical record which albeit, fails to fully justify his theory of Yucatecan origin.

This book is important principally for its contribution to a new type of anthropology. While maintaining the rigorous ethnographic standards of the functionalists in answering the question "how," the author adds the search for meaning in pursuit of the question "why." In addition, he challenges the assumptions of many anthropologists regarding the impact of modernization on traditional societies. This work is most speculative in its attempt to trace the origins of the Lacandon Maya. Perhaps this is simply the reflection of the scarcity of documentary sources on the Lacandon. At any rate, McGee's ambitions to incorporate an ethnohistorical element fall short at this point.

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Ida Altman. *Emigrants and Society. Extremadura and Spanish America in the Sixteenth Century.* Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1989. 372 pp.

The focus of this book is really narrower than that of its billing, Extremadura and Spanish America in the Sixteenth Century. It is based half upon Altman's 1981 doctoral dissertation on "Emigrants, Returnees and Society in Sixteenth Century Cáceres" (Johns Hopkins University), some of which ironically does not make it to the book, and half upon Altman's return to the Spanish archives in 1984 and 1987 to add Trujillo to the study. The book therefore does not deal with other important extremeño cities such as Alcantará, Badajoz and Mérida. There is also a late-century emphasis, apparently determined by source availability. This localization of focus actually strengthens the work, allowing for detailed examples and sparing the reader the dehumanization of the exclusively statistical approach.

As a social history of Cáceres and Trujillo this work

is a valuable contribution to the historiography of Spain, a country which has lagged far behind England, France and Italy as an object of English-language sociohistorical scrutiny. Solely with the first four chapters of this book Altman has placed herself among the likes of William Christian, Heath Dillard, Richard Kagan and David Vassberg. These chapters offer an overview of "the structure, composition and functioning of local society in Cáceres and Trujillo" (p.277), including a dissection of social classes and their economic base, an examination of inheritance patterns, and a survey of land tenure.

In an apparently exhaustive analysis of her notarial sources, Altman presents a complex portrait of social and economic interaction, from the role of women and clerics to the price fluctuations of land, bread and livestock.

This social study does not only justify itself, but in the context of this book, is justified by Altman's perception of local society as "the primary milieu in which the majority of people functioned and the main focus for their loyalty and interest" (p.278). This was as true for those who emigrated to the New World as it was for those who stayed. In chapter five, Altman discusses in detail the nature of emigration to Spanish America, presenting the statistics on how many of what type of Spaniard left where for what destination, their occupations, and their costs. Altman also presents the temporal fluctuations of these statistics. She reveals the extent to which emigrants travelled in groups, and the importance of contacts in the New World. As one might expect, hometown affinity played an omnipresent part, overlapping where possible with kin ties.

The contribution this work makes to Latin American historiography is strong, though it is a shame that Altman could not trace individual emigrants through the local archives in Spanish America to establish specific settlement termini and create a multiple career-pattern history. Such an endeavour would presumably take a lifetime. Instead Altman relies on secondary material--such as work by Mario Góngora, James Lockhart, who also gave Altman access to his research notes on early Peru, and Efraim Trelles--to supplement the few gems on emigrants' fates discovered in Spanish archives--such as a body of private letters from an Alvaro de Paredes in Mexico found in the archive of the Monasterio de Guadalupe.

Altman was also able to combine her notarial sources from Cáceres and Trujillo with published demographic work--

most notably that of Peter Boyd-Bowman--to show that the destination of preference shifted from Hispaniola to New Spain with Cortés' conquest, and to Peru after 1530, with Pizarro's return to Trujillo for recruitment purposes. The connections established as a result of this recruitment drive were such that returnees to Extremadura from anywhere in New Spain became known as "peruleros." Altman confirms previously noted patterns of emigration showing Extremadura coming a close second to Andalucia as a provider of emigrants to Spanish America. It would be interesting to compare Altman's work with a similar study, if it could be done, on Mérida, Cortés' hometown.

In the final two chapters before her conclusion Altman comes up with no surprises: Spaniards emigrated in a quest for status and wealth; some, having achieved it, returned; most stayed, whether successful or not.

One suspects that Altman might have made more vivid and graphic use of some of the better examples supporting her analysis, and she tends towards over-lengthy sentences. Direct quotes from more of the letters she refers to might have brought to life some of the individual Spaniards serving as examples. But this is mere carping. The book is generally well-written, and succeeds in bridging the Atlantic Ocean with a remarkable coherency. It has received some rave reviews--J.F. Schwaller called it "a masterpiece" and Helen Nader predicted it would be "the definitive work on the subject"--and deservedly so. Few scholars can endure research this intensive and still go on to analyze and compose with such a clear mind.

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Linda A. Newson. *Indian Survival in Colonial Nicaragua.* Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987.

A geographer by training, Linda A. Newson attempts to study the demography of the Nicaraguan Indians in the pre and post-colonial eras. Unfortunately for Newson, the Indians of Nicaragua left nothing in the form of written sources. She must, by necessity, rely on documents produced by the Spanish. While this in and of itself does not