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for making stone and glass implements and bow-hunting in their quest is significant, but not the entire story. Ishi's anthropologists were fascinated by this example of a non-reservation Indian who had never been forced to endure any attempts at directed culture change by well-intentioned but misguided U.S. Indian policymakers and missionaries. They mistook his form of personal autonomy for aboriginality.

The materials assembled here should be employed with some care. The editors provide introductory comments for each major division of the book and for each selection contained within, but they are not extensive and interpretation is still necessary, as with all historical documents. Beginning students may require special guidance through the materials in order to get past the extreme brutality described in the first section and to grasp the dynamics of the complex processes in operation. It is also regrettable that no transcriptions of interviews with or reminiscences by Ishi himself were included. That four years of such intensive scrutiny should produce so few records of this sort is surprising. Especially in this regard, this collection of documents captures more of the interface of relationships between Indians and Whites and between ideology and reality, than of Ishi the man.

Melissa L. Meyer
University of Minnesota

Essays in Population History: Mexico and California. Volume Three. By Sherburne F. Cook and Woodrow Borah. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979. 333 pp. cloth. \$20.00

The volume of three essays is the final product of Sherburne Cook and Woodrow Borah's long and fruitful association in the field of historical demography. In Chapter I they reexamine the extent and timing of the precipitous decline in Native population that marked the first 100 years of Spanish rule in central Mexico. Information obtained from a recently discovered colonial document dated 1646 leads them to conclude that the nadir was reached between 1620-1625 at approximately 730,000, a figure slightly less than three percent of the 25.2 million estimate for the population of central Mexico in 1518. The 1646 document also contains records of Indian tribute payments and Royal revenues, which Borah and Cook use to develop an interesting

picture of the "fiscal confusion" in the Audiencia of Mexico that forced reforms in the colonial administration.

The second essay updates the debate concerning pre- versus post-Conquest nutritional levels in central Mexico. After reviewing general patterns of Indian food production and consumption, Cook and Borah calculate the probable metabolic needs of farmers and unskilled laborers who constituted the bulk of the Native population. Food intake for this group during the period immediately before the Conquest is judged to have been chronically inadequate considering the physical demands of manual labor. The nutritional deficit was somewhat ameliorated by the introduction of new technologies and food crops from Europe. Even the European ration standards for those who worked as virtual slaves was above that provided the Aztec *macehual* or commoner. Ironically, the 97 percent decline in Native population during the first century of the colonial period may have increased per capita income because of the availability of more good agricultural land and the competition for scarce Indian labor.

The last chapter is a *tour de force* in the application of historical methods. The thorough analysis by Cook and Borah of the vital registers of eight northern California missions reveals a great deal about population dynamics in multi-ethnic frontier communities and suggests a number of important questions that deserve further research.

The work completes a monumental three volume series containing eighteen essays on population history by Cook and Borah. Their collaboration constitutes an essential part of the scholarship on the demographic consequences of European colonization in the Americas.

Timothy Dunnigan
University of Minnesota

The Only Land They Knew: The Tragic Story of American Indians in the Old South. By J. Leitch Wright, Jr. New York: Free Press, 1981. 372 pp. cloth. \$16.95

Professor Wright has produced an excellent one-volume survey of aboriginal presence in the United States South. It is a well-