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

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**Author**

Herrera, Robinson

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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.

Matthew Restall  
University of California, Los Angeles

**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

determine the quality or the contribution of the work to the field (one need only examine the works of Farriss and Sherman, to name just two), it lends itself better to areas where extensive documentation can be found. Most of the extant colonial documents for the Audiencia de Guatemala are linked to the region in the immediate vicinity of Santiago or to areas of important economic activity, the mines of Honduras for example. Lacking any importance, beyond a zone for slaving which quickly was exhausted, Nicaragua had little in the form of material wealth to offer the Spaniards. Nicaragua was a backwater, for Central America in general never attained the importance to the crown that the central valley of Mexico or the mines of Potosí did.

Newson divides her book into six parts. The first and second parts deal with the size of the population in the pre-colonial era. The bulk of the work is based on the writings of the chroniclers Oviedo, Ponce, Torquemada, González Davila and a collection of modern writers, in particular Radell and Denevan. In fact her original research for these parts is rather skimpy. When she does use censuses from the colonial period, they are from the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, much too late to be germane to her study. In part three she discusses the enslavement of the Indians and the attempts by some crown officials to reduce the abuse of Indian laborers. William L. Sherman covered the topic in greater depth, and with greater original research, in his book *Forced Native Labor in Sixteenth-Century Central America*.

Newson treads safer ground in the section that deals with the period from 1550-1720. The ready availability of censuses, tribute lists, parish records, and other documents allows her conclusions to rest on more solid evidence. Yet here too she relies heavily on the work of other historians, chiefly on Murdo MacLeod's *Spanish Central America*. Newson makes much of the cultural diversity and differences between the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. She found that the inhabitants of the Pacific side were more influenced by the Maya and Nahuatl speakers whereas the Indians of the Caribbean were influenced more by the Indians of South America. Newson also discusses the role of the English in developing the Caribbean coast; Woodward found this true also for Guatemala in his book *Empires in the Wilderness: The British in Nineteenth Century Guatemala*.

In all fairness it must be stated that Newson took on the extremely difficult topic of Indian survival in the colonial period. Solano did much the same thing for Guatemala,

though his work deals with a later period and he had the good fortune of having the writings of Cortéz y Larraz as well as a wealth of primary documentation to support his conclusions. Like Inga Clendinnen, she relies excessively on secondary sources; however, Newson's work is far from a narrative in that it concerns itself more with cultural history. While there is nothing wrong with relying on the works of previous authors, basing an entire study on secondary sources contributes little to the field. While her book does have some original thoughts they are buried in a sea of well-known facts.

Robinson Herrera  
University of California, Los Angeles

**Roderic A. Camp, *Entrepreneurs and Politics in Twentieth-Century Mexico*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1989.**

Camp thematically examines the relationship between the private sector and the state in Mexico since 1920. He applies a variety of methodologies in testing a number of assumptions about the role of the entrepreneur in twentieth-century Mexico. He makes available for the first time collective biographical data on the social background and economic experience of a broad group of Mexican entrepreneurs. Throughout the text are interspersed valuable perspectives from first hand interviews reflecting the views of entrepreneurs and government officials. He draws portraits of typical Mexican entrepreneurial types and the institutions they represent. These are then presented in the larger context of the Mexican state and the general political process.

By using mostly original sources, Camp in his study provides much new information concerning the relationship between the private sector and the state. The most important among these sources are the extensive oral interviews with entrepreneurs and politicians which Camp has conducted since the late 1960s as part of a long-term project to test the presence of a power elite in Mexico. This biographical data and firsthand interviews provide an empirical and insightful picture of the makeup of Mexico's leading entrepreneurs and reveals important trends over time.

He first provides a historical sketch of private sector-