

Television, Politics, and the Transition to Democracy in Latin America. Edited by THOMAS E. SKIDMORE. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993. Tables. Figures. Notes. Index. xii, 188 pp. Cloth. \$25.00.

In the tawdry recollections of his presidential campaign published in *Granta* 36, Mario Vargas Llosa tells of the joy and terror that came over him as he stood before the huge mass that acclaimed him in the Plaza San Martín on the evening of August 21, 1987. Standing alone somewhere else in Lima, perhaps in his public home, Alan García, the president, saw the rally on the small screen and felt an even greater passion. If the candidate is to be believed, a rage came over the president as he realized (perhaps wrongly at the time) that his own long-term political ambitions had come to an end. So he thrust his foot through the screen. In one of her recent articles in the *New Yorker*, Alma Guillermoprieto tells how Brazilians became obsessed with the real-life murder of Daniella Perez, star of fictional telenovelas, while the impeachment of a real president took on the aura of a fictional drama on the nation's TV screens. And in his introduction to this volume on 1980s politics and television in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico, Thomas E. Skidmore informs us, "Today Latin America stands out as one of the two Third World regions . . . where television has most closely approximated its dominance in the industrial world . . ." (p. 10). So there can be little doubt that television is part of reality in Latin America and ought to be fully studied.

Skidmore deftly introduces this volume by highlighting the strengths of its various articles without downplaying their differences. Neither he nor any of the contributors offers simple, optimistic connections between an expanding role for television and the contemporary emergence of more nearly democratic regimes. This should be much applauded, now that so many scholars have been consumed by the democratization craze. Some of the pieces here, most notably Venicio A. de Lima's account of the 1989 presidential campaign in Brazil and Ilya Adler's of the 1988 campaign in Mexico, are sophisticated treatments that engage a political and anthropological literature, concern themselves with political culture, and address the evolving relationships between the "private" and the "public."

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Obras completas. Volume 1. By ALBERTO FLORES GALINDO. Lima: Fundación Andina, 1993. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. 462 pp. Paper.

Agentes de su propia libertad: los esclavos y la desintegración de la esclavitud, 1821-1854. By CARLOS AGUIRRE. Lima: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, 1993. Graphs. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. 335 pp. Paper.

Many Peruvian intellectuals and Peruvianists worried that the death of Alberto Flores Galindo in 1991, at the age of 41, would mean the demise of the collective spirit and innovative work of the circle of scholars and activists for whom he served

as a mentor and friend. In the best tradition of new social history, this group's work was characterized by collaboration, concern with contemporary society, and quality. The two books reviewed here allay those concerns. Flores Galindo's collected works promise to spark a serious revision of this scholar's work and perhaps to perpetuate his commitment and rigor. The book by Carlos Aguirre demonstrates that Flores Galindo's students are coming into their own as social historians.

Flores Galindo's work merited awards from organizations ranging from the Casa de las Américas in Cuba to the American Historical Association (the Clarence Haring Prize), and its importance in recent Peruvian historiography is enormous. The answer to the question of whether a young scholar whose works were well distributed merits a "Complete Works" is a resounding yes. Flores Galindo prepared his books through talks and articles and frequently edited his already published works. The publishers, led by his widow, Cecilia Rivera, promise to include in the five-volume set his vast number of articles often published in obscure magazines, and to incorporate his final editing of each book. These volumes will thereby allow readers to follow the development, for example, of Flores Galindo's ideas about the "Andean utopia" and Mariátegui.

While the two books included in this first volume, *Los mineros de Cerro de Pasco, 1900–1930* and *Arequipa y el sur andino*, are not his finest efforts (the best was his B.A. thesis), they demonstrate two of his enduring characteristics: his ability as a writer and the breadth of his interests. *Los mineros de Cerro de Pasco* offers a wealth of information on mineworkers, while the reflections on regions and regionalism in the second work remain relevant to any discussion of modern Peru. The combined volume comes with a superb introduction by Eduardo Cáceres, which, more than a mere homage to his friend, has much to say about their generation. Scholars interested in political and intellectual currents in contemporary Peru should not overlook it. Beautifully edited, the volume deserves a place in any serious library.

Carlos Aguirre was one of the many Peruvian social scientists who learned from Flores Galindo, inside or outside the classroom. He displays the writing skills, theoretical interests, and social concerns of his teacher. *Agentes de su propia libertad* argues that the abolition of slavery in 1854 was not the product of President Ramón Castilla's magnanimity or the result of international politics, as most analyses maintain. Instead, the multifaceted efforts of black slaves forced the end of slavery. To support this contention, Aguirre examines the nature of slavery in both Lima and its hinterland and analyzes a number of tactics slaves used: lawsuits, self-purchase, banditry, marronage, and the occasional revolt or conspiracy. Deftly employing the literature on "resistance" (both for and against), Aguirre depicts a long struggle on many fronts rather than a single watershed. By midcentury, confronted by a defiant work force, a stagnant economy, and hostile international and national political situations, Peruvian slaveowners had lost the power, and some even the will, to guarantee the continuation of slavery.

Aguirre's book is carefully researched, skillfully argued, and ultimately con-

vincing. The sections on early republican Lima, the slave market, and the legal basis of slavery greatly contribute to our understanding of the period. Because of the author's theoretical sophistication, this work should be read not only by those interested in republican Peru but also those studying slavery and abolition in general.

The publication of these two books demonstrates that the work of Alberto Flores Galindo will continue to enrich the Peruvian social sciences for decades to come. It is to be hoped that his writings are carefully and critically read and that other scholars continue his legacy. These two books give us grounds for optimism on that score.

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Region and State in Latin America's Past. By MAGNUS MÖRNER. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993. Maps. Graphs. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xiv, 142 pp. Cloth. \$32.50.

As conceptual and analytical categories, region and state have begun to elicit considerable interest among Latin Americanists. Magnus Mörner, however, argues in his most recent book that area specialists only rarely define these terms or engage in discussions that might relate studies of specific regions or of state behavior to larger theoretical debates concerning the nature and function of the state and its relationship to civil society. The objective of this book is therefore to explore the question of "the relationship, over time, between the state in Latin America and civil society on the regional level" (p. xi) and to examine this relationship from both comparative and theoretical perspectives.

The author introduces his study with a brief historical overview of diverse theories of state and region. Michael Mann's Weber-inspired conceptualization of the state, which distinguishes between "despotic" power (direct, forceful power exercised by the state and its elite) and "infrastructural" power (the state's ability actually to penetrate society and impose centrally devised policies), becomes the basis of Mörner's analysis of the evolution of specific Latin American states. To approach the question of region, Mörner opts for geographer David Robinson's notion of the "meso" regional sphere, defined as "a city or town with a hinterland" (p. 7).

Having specified his analytical terms, Mörner proceeds with a short summary of the historiography of region and state in Latin America from the colonial period to the present. Finally, Mörner selects four case studies to illustrate the relationship: the colonial state's segregation policy in Spanish America, the tension between race and citizenship in postindependence Venezuela, the Quebra Quilos movement in Brazil, and the impact of immigration on national politics in Argentina.

Although Mörner's project is worthwhile and timely, this book is ultimately

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