

Somewhat surprisingly, the interviews devote relatively little space to the actual experience of opposition politics in Mexico. Apart from some useful material on the antecedents of some of the newer oppositions (Muñoz Ledo's discussion of the origins and fate of several "democratizing" tendencies within the PRI in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s is particularly interesting) and a few revealing glimpses of the PRI's control mechanisms at work in Congress, the opposition leaders are silent on topics like repression, cooptation, and electoral manipulation. Muñoz Ledo in particular might have had interesting things to say about some of these issues, given the central role he once played in the *cúpula* of the official party.

Gil conducted his interviews in 1986, 1987, and early 1988, before the political earthquake registered by the 1988 presidential elections. But his excellent introduction carries the story to 1991, in addition to providing a well-written synoptic account of the massive changes in political and economic life that unfolded during the 1980s. The appendix, titled "The Rise of Transborder Politics," also reminds us that in the era of NAFTA, economic and political integration is spawning trinational responses by a wide range of opposition forces in unions, nongovernmental organizations, and political parties. This important book would make a very useful text in courses dealing with contemporary Mexico.

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Labor and Politics in Panama: The Torrijos Years. By SHARON PHILLIPS COLLAZOS. Boulder: Westview Press, 1991. Tables. Figures. Appendixes. Bibliography. Index. xii, 196 pp. Paper. \$28.50.

When you read a book in your field and find that the author has chosen to ignore your various contributions, the effect is galling. It is all the more galling when the book in question is excellent; and Sharon Phillips Collazos has written an excellent book indeed on labor policy during the Torrijos years. In a concise, well-organized, and rigorously supported argument, the author demonstrates beyond reasonable doubt the insignificance or nonexistence of the negative effects on employment, productivity, and labor relations attributed to the 1972 Labor Code.

To appreciate the significance of this finding, one need recall that the code was the *bête noire* of the private sector in Panama, to which all economic evils could be traced. In the 1980s the World Bank took up the same refrain, setting as loan conditionality the elimination of job protection and other guarantees found in the code (though by the time various amendments had already considerably weakened it). The post-invasion government continued in the same rhetorical vein, arguing that elimination of the code altogether would be a prerequisite for employment growth, foreign investment, and labor peace. Thus Collazos' study undermines two decades of antilabor polemics.

Those unfamiliar with Panama and the Torrijos regime will find the early chap-

ters quite useful. Specialists will find it irresistible to skip this well-traveled ground and come to the heart of the matter in chapters 5 through 8. The discussion of the 1972 code (chapter 5) is extremely thorough and insightful. Chapters 6 and 7, which deal with reaction to the code, are sometimes dry to the point of tedium. Weathering them is worth the effort, for their attention to detail makes the evaluation of the impact of the code (chapter 8) all the more powerful. In this chapter Collazos demonstrates that she has done not only her homework but everyone else's as well. Her evidence shows that the code did not result in wage inflation (real wages declined); labor did not gain in the subsequent distributional struggle (wages in national income fell); and labor unrest did not result (no trend in strike activity). Some books set the terms of a debate; this one, by its thoroughness and clarity, should end the debate.

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Land, Labor, and Capital in Modern Yucatán: Essays in Regional History and Political Economy. Edited by JEFFERY T. BRANNON and GILBERT M. JOSEPH. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1991. Chronology. Maps. Tables. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. 384 pp. Cloth. \$45.00.

During the 1980s the University of Alabama Press published three very good scholarly books on Yucatán. This latest contribution further demonstrates Alabama's commitment to high standards and relevant scholarship and will enhance its reputation as a first-rate university press. Brannon and Joseph have assembled a multinational group of social scientists who have employed historical, anthropological, sociological, and political economic approaches to the study of socio-economic change in Yucatán from the early nineteenth century to the period of the Mexican Revolution. In eight superb essays, each a model of regional or microhistorical research, the contributors analyze how national and global forces of change impinged upon Yucatán and shaped land tenure and production, labor conditions and utilization, and the power and employment of capital. Regions often bypassed in studies of modern Yucatán, such as the Belize border area, the southeastern frontier, and the northeast, are the focus of four essays. The northwestern henequen zone receives due attention; the essays on the peripheral regions place the late nineteenth-century henequen boom in broader comparative perspective. The essays consider the roles of foreign and regional capitalists, local hacendados, Mayan campesinos, black creoles, and urban laborers over one hundred years of profound social and economic change.

The three essays in Part 1 chart, as the title suggests, "The Erosion of Traditional Society" as the consequence of the early expansion of commercial agriculture. José Arturo Güémez Pineda argues that campesinos in the northwest