Book Review Vertical Empire: The General Resettlement of Indians in the Colonial Andes, by Jeremy Mumford

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trade necessarily became overwhelmingly internationalized. The 1817 abolition of the monopoly, Gárate argues, was a practical confirmation of realities that already existed.

All in all, this volume does much to fill an important void in the historiography on the most successful and fiscally rewarding of the several Bourbon economic monopolies. Moreover, the text is enriched abundantly with tables and graphs, and it features numerous appendices which, for the most part, document the maritime traffic. Although the authors do not conceptualize their effort in terms of Atlantic history, this volume, given its scope, will surely interest historians dedicated to that perspective.

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Jeremy Mumford’s study constitutes a new approach to the topic of the 1570 Toledan compulsory resettlement of Andean peoples. This massive social engineering project has been the focus of scholarly interest for decades. Building on this body of knowledge, Mumford opens a fascinating window into the personal and cultural background of the man credited for crafting the plan, the fifth viceroy of Peru, Francisco de Toledo, and the intellectual and political atmosphere in which the scheme was articulated and put to work during the late sixteenth century. The author demonstrates that, in such a milieu, Andean culture also played a role in the collective negotiation of the effectiveness that imperial power would ultimately have in the area. The result is an engaging contribution to not only Andean history but also the growing field of the history of colonialism.

Mumford claims in the introduction that the General Resettlement of Indians was a “strikingly modern project...informed by Spanish visions of a prehispanic empire” (p. 9). The author presents Viceroy Toledo as a captivating and paradoxical administrator who, on the one hand, was committed to modernize the Andes to the benefit of the Spanish Crown and, on the other, struggled mightily to understand and present his plan as a continuation of the Incan Empire. Toledo was, in essence, both a creative and destructive figure. Mumford’s discussion in chapter 7 of Toledo’s attempt to understand and present Inca reign as a “tyranny” is therefore an exciting disquisition. The author sets the basis for understanding the Toledan enterprise in the larger context of contemporary Spanish philosophy and political theory, as both disciplines were challenged by Spain’s need to rule the New World.
Mumford asserts how Toledo, via his chronicler, Sarmiento de Gamboa, assembled a convoluted narrative plot that used the traditional Andean institution of forced resettlement, or mitmaes, to connect his administration to Pachacuti’s and Topa Inca’s deeds (pp. 104-07). Such an ancient practice, Mumford sustains, gave grounds to Toledo to present his government as a “generous tyranny” (p. 106).

Although crucial, Spanish intellectual tradition was not the only venue that Toledo used to legitimize his project. Since one of the main tenets of Iberian colonialism was the need to respect local traditions, the viceroy gave paramount importance to ethnography as a tool to collect field information. Toledo relied on his own observations, as well as that of his advisors, to understand Andean institutions that predated his resettlement plan because “he loudly called for transforming the Andean way of organizing space, in the broad outlines, while quietly preserving it in the details” (p. 116).

The use of ethnographical data, however, granted local chiefs (kuracas) an opportunity to negotiate the particulars of Toledo’s plan to their advantage. Other interested voices, namely those of local encomenderos and priests, added to the myriad of agents that shaped the implementation of Toledo’s scheme on the ground.

Mumford explores specific examples that portray the complexities of putting in action the resettlement plan. The selected area (ranging from Lima-Jauja to Potosí-La Plata) corresponded, the author indicates, to the region where the pre-Hispanic vertical archipelago was most pronounced and where the best data about the General Resettlement was collected. This was also the district charged with providing labor to colonial mines and, therefore, where surviving Inca cuzqueño aristocracy fiercely challenged Iberian administration over access to native workers (p. 6).

Mumford’s approach persuasively guides readers from a general analysis to a local, archival-based perspective. He uses such a strategy to portray the complexities of a major turning point in Andean history. In short, this is a well-planned, skillfully crafted study that should further shape our understanding of colonialism in the Americas.

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Bernardo Miera y Pacheco is a name familiar to those reasonably acquainted with New Mexico’s eighteenth-century history. Scholars have relied on his maps of the territory to study the region and marveled at the