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## After Spanish Rule: Book Review

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Thurner, Mark and Andrés Guerrero, eds.

**After Spanish Rule; Postcolonial Predicaments of the Americas**

Durham and London: Duke University Press

357 pp., \$79.95 cloth, \$22.95 paper

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This volume is a meditation on the place of Latin America in the context of post colonial theory. All of the contributors are historians or anthropologists at American universities with the exception of Quito-based independent scholar, Andrés Guerrero and Shahid Amin of Delhi University. In the first section, Andrés Guerrero and Mark Thurner, take up the question of the place of Latin America in the discourse on post colonialism developed in relation to Africa and Asia. Rejecting the Latin American “exceptionalism” posited by others, they find in the analyses of other historians connections between the post colonial worlds of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The remaining chapters ably analyze aspects of Latin American colonialism with the goal of exploring this thesis from a variety of angles..

Mauricio Tenorio Trillo, writes on the symbols of nationalism in Mexico and Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, examines late Latin American colonial travel narratives to find in them evidence of both modern ethnography and post colonial theory. Javier Morillo-Alicea focuses on Spanish self-definition of empire the post-independence period and suggests that the image of Spain as a sixteenth century empire must be rethought. Mark Thurner analyses the use of the past, in this case the Inca Empire, to create a post-colonial Peruvian identity with non-European roots. The themes of national symbols and native roots are also examined by Thomas Ambercrombie through the history of carnival in Bolivia to show how a national identity based on a native past developed that at the same time excluded natives. In an essay on Colombia’s independence day, Marixa Lasso, examines the disjunction between traditional creole narrative, which she calls a “discourse of illusion”, and actual historical events to argue that the lower classes had significant involvement in the wars for independence. Peter Guardino analyses the breakdown in early nineteenth-century electoral politics in Oaxaca concluding that this was a result of the absence of pluralism, not colonialism. Andrés Guerrero and Joanne Rappaport reflect on the ways subject indigenous populations in Ecuador and Colombia came to be administered by citizens and how they may subvert subjugation.

Although the general style relies on the jargon common to post colonial studies, this book is a thoughtful assessment of the place of Latin America in the historiography of the subject and makes a significant contribution to the debate by providing evidence that counters the idea of Latin American exceptionalism. It will be of interest to scholars and graduate students

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