

From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico 1867-1911

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Reviews

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Stuart B. Schwartz (ed.), *Tropical Babels: Sugar and the Making of the Atlantic World, 1490–1680* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), pp. xvi + 347, £40.50, £15.50 pb.

Globalisation has injected new life into the study of the history of commodities. The development of plantations and other units of large-scale production in the early modern period now looks like an episode in the making of global economic interdependence. Colonies resemble the staple-producing regions of today, while the powers that founded them were forerunners of today's big consumer countries. Commodity-history is a way of charting the emergence of a world economy of interconnected, specialised zones of production.

No commodity attracts more attention than sugar. The crop was part of the vanguard of European overseas imperialism, travelling across the Atlantic just behind the conquistadores. It was the first big cash-crop grown in the New World for export to the Old. According to conventional wisdom, it stimulated the spread of slavery. It sweetened the 'beverages revolution' of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It concentrated energy, conveyed comfort and aided the fermentation of cheap liquor. In the era of industrialisation it supplied an opiate for the masses, while sweetening the excipients that helped to keep workers going. From a rare medicine, it became an abundant food, and a kind of drug. Today it rots teeth and swells obesity.

Despite the fascination of these transformations, and the work they have attracted, many unresolved problems remain. Was the early-modern rise of sugar a 'supply-side' phenomenon, or was it driven, like the growth of spice production in the same period, by demand? What part did sugar really play in the history of the slave trade? When did 'pre-plantation agrarian production' of sugar yield to the 'sugar revolution'? How did sugar-planters make money?

Tropical Babels boldly approaches these problems. The main findings are that the juncture of sugar-production with slave labour occurred, on the whole, later than is commonly supposed, while the impact of sugar on world trade happened relatively early.

The coverage of the individual chapters is not, of course, comprehensive, but it does represent a wide range of representative topics and – by the standards of multi-author volumes – the result is a remarkably coherent survey of current knowledge of the subject. William D. Phillips fills in a vital part of the background with a characteristically scholarly and efficient survey of the beginnings of sugar production in medieval Iberia. He is especially good on Valencia, though perhaps rather hurried in his brief treatment of the Algarve. The usefulness of his chapter makes one wish the book included more of the background in the eastern Mediterranean and the earlier story of the transmission of the crop from Asia.

Alberto Vieira launches us into the Atlantic, dealing with Madeira and the Canaries together and illuminating both. Careful contributions by Genaro Rodríguez

From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca aims at finally setting Mexican history free of stereotypes about the The View from the South, Mexico From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca aims at finally setting Mexican history free of to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico (review); The Americas Volume 62, Number The author repeatedly links Oaxaca to other Mexican states by means of apt comparisons and contrasts, and .From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico (review). Brian R. Hamnett. The Americas, Volume 62, Number 3, January.From Liberal To Revolutionary Oaxaca has 2 ratings and 1 review. From Liberal To Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View From The South, Mexico From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico Abstract. The book From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from.From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press.Heather Fowler-Salamini; From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico Hispanic American Historical.From liberal to revolutionary Oaxaca: the view from the south, Mexico Oaxaca -- Political culture and revolution -- Liberal politics -- Porfirian politics.Read Online or Download From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico PDF. Similar Latin America.Table of contents for From liberal to revolutionary Oaxaca: the view from the south, Mexico / Francie R. Chassen-Lopez. Bibliographic record and.Her most recent book, From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca: The View from the South, Mexico , was awarded the Thomas McGann Prize for the Best .From Liberal to Revolutionary Oaxaca aims at finally setting Mexican history free Chassen-Lopez challenges this view of Oaxaca as a negative mirror image of modern. The View from the South, Mexico The author argues that we need to rethink Mexican history through an analysis of the indigenous South.

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