

Mesoamerica and Peru over a long period in order to create a sense of how both tastes and ingredients moved within and between the Americas and Europe. Joel Palka demonstrates the agency and independence that Mayan highlanders have maintained into the present in his study of tobacco. Joan Bristol's chapter on pulque uses controversies over impurity and corruption to explore colonial anxieties about racial mixing. Guido Pezzarossi explores the labor system tied to colonial sugar production in Guatemala through a focus on the ways in which the bodily effects of sugar were said to be health threats. He situates sugar and alcohol within humoral medicine and shows how they were in turn linked to efforts to differentiate indigenous from Spanish bodies.

The essays are fascinating in and of themselves, but it is also the authors' shared interest in what the editors call the "thingyness" of the objects of study that makes this book a valuable contribution. In part an effort to consider insights drawn from the history of emotions, but more clearly drawing on affect theory, this concept takes us beyond simple material culture and into a world of bodies, ingestions, seduction, and desire—into a world where the question of how we come to know these substances is just as critical as what we know about them. The different authors in the collection pursue these goals in different ways. Some produce work that resembles intellectual and cultural history more closely, while others take novel approaches to the subjects of study. The collective result is a laudable example of how this concept might be deployed in thinking about both the circulation of these goods in the colonial world and how they shaped meanings, practice, and everyday life.

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## LATE COLONIAL CITIES

*Urban Space as Heritage in Late Colonial Cuba: Classicism and Dissonance on the Plaza de Armas of Havana, 1754–1828.* By Paul Niell. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015.  
 Pp. 362. \$55.00 cloth.  
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In the second half of the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth century, Spanish authorities carried out the Bourbon reforms, a reorganization of the imperial system aimed at increasing income from colonial possessions. Urban transformations were important to these reforms, and were materialized in a series of similar, and nearly simultaneous, changes to different cities of Spanish America. These included the official alteration of the uses of the main square (*Plaza Mayor/Plaza de Armas*) and the establishment of general cemeteries in the urban periphery.

Paul Niell's book is an important addition to the growing literature on Bourbon urban reforms, presenting a fruitful combination of art history, urban history, and heritage studies. Niell takes Havana as his case study, focusing on the official intervention in the main square and, particularly, on the construction of a new building, El Templete (1828), which contained three large paintings memorializing historical subjects (The First Cabildo, The First Mass, and The Inauguration of El Templete). Havana makes for an interesting and attractive research subject, mainly because of its very late independence (1898) and particular black vs. white racial tensions, which Niell explains in some detail. The book is divided into five chapters, each of which considers a different component of the urban and aesthetic reform of the main square. With the creation of El Templete, the main square was partially transformed into a site of memory (*lieu de mémoire*), celebrating some aspects of local history (represented in the aforementioned paintings) while ignoring others (like Havana's early black population).

The strength of the book lies in its sophisticated analysis of the urban dimension of the Bourbon reforms in Havana, and for that alone it is worth a read. Nevertheless, I would like to suggest two general critiques. The first relates to the visualization of the urban scene, the main topic of Chapter 1. Maps are crucial to books on cities, and Niell includes several important ones. However, legibility is limited, negating the benefits of reproducing the map (for example, that of Juan Siscara on page 31). Two solutions are available in cases like this: either redraw an old map and indicate important parts of the city or improve (enlarge) the reproduction of the old map. Readers unfamiliar with Havana will need to look elsewhere to understand the basic features of the city, which is unfortunate, given the book's focus on urban space.

The second critique relates to the comparison of Havana with other cities. The book does a good job in comparing the European experience with that of Havana, but its discussion of other Spanish American cities is weak. Niell emphasizes the Mexican case (well explored by US historians, who are cited, and Mexican historians, who are largely ignored), but pays less attention to other Spanish colonial cities, especially those with similar racial and ethnic distributions and tensions. Niell recognizes the importance of ethnic tension in shaping the official reformist attitude, so this lack is noticeable.

Along similar lines, the book shines when introducing the main components of the urban reforms, but it would have been strengthened by the incorporation of more local Havana sources and further discussion of local reactions. For instance, when dealing with the general cemetery, Niell describes its construction and its architectonic features, but does not discuss local responses to the project (for example, the reactions of the elite or the lower classes). Throughout the book there are moments when local evidence seems to be missing. This may be related to the absence (among Niell's sources) of a vital kind of document for dealing with local politics in Spanish American cities: the *libros de cabildo* (or *Actas Capitulares*). The Archivo Histórico de la Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad lists this source in its collection for the relevant years. Consideration of

Havana's Libro de Cabildo might have helped explain how Bourbon reforms were locally adopted and adapted.

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### AMERICAS SINCE COLUMBUS

*Exploitation, Inequality, and Resistance: A History of Latin America Since Columbus*. Edited by Mark A. Burkholder, Monica Rankin, and Lyman L. Johnson. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. Pp. 480. \$29.95 paper.  
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The three editors of this work have created an essential textbook for students and teachers of the history of Latin America. The book is arranged chronologically in 26 chapters, each containing an introductory timeline, an exemplary primary source, and up-to-date suggestions for further reading. It includes an epilogue, glossary, and engaging maps and images to help students. As the preface explains, this textbook has three key themes: Iberian institutions, identity, and the global context. Significantly, it focuses on the exploitations that developed in Latin America from the start of the colonial period, and the ways in which they created the structural inequalities that are still part of the story of Latin America today.

The book brings into focus the prevalent issues of inequalities, not only economic, but also social, racial, political, cultural, and environmental. It considers the construction and intersection of the axes of inequality: race, gender, and class. Alongside explanations of the economic and political causes of inequality, it addresses cultural and social history to represent how these inequalities were experienced in people's daily lives. It is informed by contemporary scholarship on inequality, exploring the ways inequalities are constructed, experienced, and spatialized in rural and urban environments. Significantly, the textbook represents the histories of people who have often been marginalized: Amerindians, Africans, and poor Europeans.

By focusing on exploitation and inequality in the history of Latin America, the book could be accused of contributing to the controversial "Black Legend" of the Spanish empire. Instead, it offers a *longue durée* approach and situates Latin America within a global context. The editors begin with the pre-Columbian Americas, observing that there was slavery in the Americas before conquest, and end with a reflection on how the forces of neoliberalism and globalization are maintaining inequality in the Americas today. This approach equips students for thinking about the relationships between the history of Latin America and global history, and in doing so brings inequalities into sharper focus. For example, many global histories have examined the