

Well-documented, despite Jackson's disclaimer that he is not an academic, this hefty tome furnishes estimates of herd sizes in different periods, maps the major ranch holdings, and reviews all cattle-related court cases and decrees. Furthermore, it supplies a wealth of information in the notes and in several appendixes and adds the author's own sketches to the growing collection of illustrations of eighteenth-century Texas.

Unfortunately, the book lacks control, balance, and perspective. The author is often folksy, sometimes flippant. He gives all cattle-related topics, regardless of merit, the same detailed attention. More importantly, Jackson is apparently unacquainted with the issues that currently dominate the historiography of Spanish American colonial communities and independence movements. Thus he overlooks the full impact of the cattle economy on Texas's social structure and politics. He alludes to, but does not make explicit, the connection between the development of the livestock resource and the rise of new elites in San Fernando de Béxar (San Antonio). He also fails to emphasize the close relationship between the town's social divisions, the economic crisis at the turn of the nineteenth century, and the turmoil of the era of independence.

The epilogue, which serves as a conclusion, is particularly disappointing. It is an overly lengthy rebuttal of Terry Jordan's claim (in *Trails to Texas: southern Roots of Western Ranching* [1981]) that the state's nineteenth-century cattle grazing traditions stem more from southern than from Spanish-Mexican sources. Valid as this discussion on Hispanic contributions to later ranching practices may be, it should not have preempted an analysis of the social, economic, and political currents described in the narrative or a comparison of the economy of Texas to that of other cattle regions.

Even so, Jackson's book remains an important contribution to the history of Spanish Texas. Rich in information, it will be an indispensable source for all subsequent research on the province's colonial past.

GILBERTO M. HINOJOSA
University of Texas,
San Antonio

JOSEFINA ZORAIDA VÁZQUEZ and LORENZO MEYER. *The United States and Mexico*. (The United States in the World: Foreign Perspectives.) Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1985. Pp. xiii, 220. \$29.00.

The basic premise of this book is an indictment of the writing of diplomatic history in this country. As the editor notes in the foreword, the book is published as one of a series that examines "American relations with other countries from a perspective that lies outside the United States" (p. ix). In their preface Josefina Zoraida Vázquez and Lorenzo

Meyer declare that American historians "seem not to understand to what degree the conquest of half of Mexico's territory in 1848 determined the feelings of resentment and mistrust that have prevailed since that time in relations between the two countries. . . . We are offering the Mexican perspective" (p. xi). Are the charges valid? Yes, but only in part. In the past too many American scholars confused diplomatic relations (a two-way street) with foreign-policy making. Their interest centered on Foggy Bottom, and their research on the files of the National Archives. But times change, and perspectives too, and our graduate students since the 1950s have been far better trained and more open-minded. As for studies of Mexico by Americans, I believe that the neglect and myopia cited by Meyer and Vázquez were not significant. Witness the writings of Howard Cline, Karl Schmitt, Michael Meyer, Peter H. Smith, Robert F. Smith, George W. Grayson, and (especially) Stanley R. Ross. No one could accuse Ross of failing to understand and appreciate the Mexican viewpoint.

If the book, which is on the whole balanced and even-handed, fails to break new paths, it is nonetheless valuable for its attention to detail and for being written by two scholars who lived through the events related in the final chapters. These, by Meyer, are the best part. He is a fine historian, and more. For years he has contributed regularly to the editorial pages of Mexico City newspapers, and he knows his country's politics like the back of his hand. He sorts out the devious paths that led Mexico into the current maze of financial and political bankruptcy. Further, he points up the insensitivity of a succession of chief executives and secretaries of state in Washington to Mexican problems and demonstrates their propensity to make decisions that impinge on Mexico's vital interests without, seemingly, considering the consequences of their actions. The authors never resort to the old, familiar aphorism, "Poor Mexico, so far from God and so close to the United States!" but they prove it on every page.

I have one final complaint. The presence of several typographical errors attests to the sad fact that even great university presses have fallen from grace and no longer pay sufficient attention to what was once a high standard of publication.

ROBERT E. QUIRK
Indiana University

PETER CALVERT. *Guatemala: A Nation in Turmoil*. (Profiles: Nations of Contemporary Latin America.) Boulder, Colo.: Westview. 1985. Pp. xv, 239. \$28.00.

Nearly half a century has passed since Chester Lloyd Jones published his *Guatemala, Past and Present* (1940). No adequate, comprehensive survey of Gua-