

*Lima y Buenos Aires: Repercusiones económicas y políticas de la creación del Virreinato del Plata.* By GUILLERMO CÉSPEDES DEL CASTILLO. [Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Publicaciones de la Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos de Sevilla, XXXIV (Nº. general), Serie 1ª: Anuario, Nº. 15.] (Sevilla: Imprenta y Litografía I.G.A.S.A., 1947, Pp. viii, 214. Paper.)

For this, the second of Sr. Céspedes' thorough and carefully documented monographs on colonial policy, the Archive of the Indies, the National Archive, and the libraries of the National Palace and the Academy of History supplied the manuscripts from which the author has obtained fresh data and derived new views of the dismemberment of the Peruvian viceroyalty. Significant materials in American archives remain to be explored, as is shown by Moreyra's excellent discussion of the consequences of the fall of Portobelo.\* But Céspedes seems to have put his finger on the major issues in the development of the Plata and the organization of the new viceroyalty.

As is well known, the crown grudgingly recognized the economic interests of Buenos Aires by authorizing the *navíos de permiso*. Despite repeated prohibitions and the attempts of the Lima merchant guild to police the trade routes, European goods passed through Buenos Aires overland to Chile and Upper Peru; and Potosí's silver leaked out through the same channel. With the establishment of the Plata viceroyalty in 1776, much that previously had been illegal became legal; and what happened, since it dealt heavy blows to the monopolistic privileges of the Lima merchants, has sometimes been taken to illustrate the economic liberalism of Charles III.

Céspedes shows that there was little disposition in Spain to yield to the importunities of the Buenos Aires cabildo (which spoke for the mercantile community) until the end of the Seven Years' War. Since the treaty left England straddling the Malvinas and Portugal better fortified in Brazil, Spain was forced to reconsider the defense of her South Atlantic possessions in the "next" war. Only Buenos Aires could be regarded as a suitable military and navel base; but the new requirements for defense exceeded the economic potential of its immediate hinterland. Viceroy Amat recommended the inclusion of Chile in the political and economic orbit of the new viceroyalty, but this proposal was dropped in deference to Pedro de Cevallos' scheme to link Buenos Aires with Upper Peru. The new economic structure was capped by the grant to Buenos Aires of exclusive rights to trade in Upper Peru, thus practically isolating Lima from the mining regions and her traditional markets.

\*Manuel Moreyra Paz-Soldán, "La toma da Portobelo por el Almte. Vernon y sus consecuencias," *Mercurio peruano*, XXIX (Lima, 1948), 289-329.

The new system provoked bitter complaints from the Lima Consulado, and at times the viceroy sided with the guild. After the peace of 1783, commerce through the port of Callao regained some of its former vigor, and all the calamities prophesied in the 1770's were not realized. But Céspedes leaves us with the conclusion that the establishment of a viceregal capital in Buenos Aires tore asunder "in a harsh and unnatural manner the two most homogeneous and contiguous regions of the old viceroyalty. Charcas could not be well governed from Buenos Aires, especially when in the latter city a policy was adopted to split the integrated economy formed by Lower and Upper Peru." Down to the present time, he reflects, Bolivia's orientation has been predominately westward, not eastward.

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*Gaspar de Medina: Conquistador y genearca.* By CARLOS A. LUQUE COLOMBRES. [Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Instituto de Estudios Americanistas, Número XIII.] (Córdoba: Imprenta de la Universidad, 1948. Pp. 199. Paper.)

This study of the "merits and services" of an early conquistador includes, as well, much interesting information on the history and the social institutions of the colonial province of Tucumán. One of the greatest of the many services to the crown performed by Gaspar de Medina was the founding of a distinguished family. Tracing the biography of the conquistador "con las generaciones en que se proyectó a través del tiempo," the author of this genealogical approach to history covers the period from around 1550, the approximate date of Gaspar de Medina's arrival in Peru, down into the eighteenth-century lives of his descendants.

The life of Gaspar de Medina was full of service and of danger. Born around 1530 in Spain, he was already fighting in New Spain by the time he was eighteen years of age. Around 1550 he came to Peru, which he presently left for Chile. There he served under Francisco de Aguirre and followed that most picturesque of conquistadores to the old Argentine colonial land of Tucumán, which was to be the main scene of Medina's activities until his death in 1598.

That the life of a conquistador was dangerous to the point where courage became only an ordinary virtue, is implied throughout this account. In general Indian uprisings occur to the accompaniment of a laconic indication of their subsequent suppression. As late as 1578, however, the town of San Miguel de Tucumán was set afire by Indians under the leadership of one Galuán, "a gigantic and fearful man," who