picture created by a deluge of indepth professional monographs. Perhaps one should not fault the author of the work discussed here for not ending our drought, if his intention was a story for popular consumption rather than a serious analytical work.

The book does have strengths. It is written in a simple unpretentious style and contains a decent, if incomplete, coverage of recent archaeological advances in the study of Mesoamerica. The quite readable narrative of the rest of Mexican history contains useful quotations and anecdotes.

Space limitations prevent a detailed critique, but here are some of the work's many problems: "Within a half century after its creation the great city of Teotihuacan was literally put to the torch" (p. 29). The conquistadores were "men like strong steel" (p. 58). The Hidalgo uprising was a "mob" action with no "campesino" support. A one-sided version of Texas independence is taken at face value. The literal political narrative of the nineteenth century includes an even more extreme than usual diatribe against Santa Anna and effusive praise for Don Benito. Coverage of the Revolution reflects almost no recent studies. The urban/rural contradiction is left with personalities, and the post-Huerta fighting with Villa is narrated in line with Obregón-Guzmán mythology. The Casa del Obrero Mundial and CTM are misnamed. The army officers and government officials responsible for the Tlatelolco massacre would be pleased with the description of their intolerable activities (pp. 415-416).

Regrettably, this book cannot be recommended to scholars.

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John M. Hart


This fine, readable book is a successful attempt to make accessible to the Mexican general public the most recent information on Mexican demography. Specialists will find it useful as well. Replete with helpful and understandable charts and graphs, it furnishes descriptive and statistical data on the evolution of Mexico's population from pre-Columbian times to 1976. Unsurprisingly, the book is strongest when dealing with the period 1920 to 1970. Professor Alba concisely discusses the bases of Mexico's population boom, thoughtfully placing it in historical and societal context. He evenhandedly examines the impact of the boom and the possible repercussions of its continuation. He concludes that Mexico cannot solve its population dilemma solely through such measures as family planning, but instead must incorporate these into a comprehensive, long-range plan of economic, social, and political development. Toward this end, the government must make difficult decisions soon or risk widespread unrest.

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