the volatile history of the region. It provides little basis for interpreting recent events. This might have been avoided by more emphasis on the relations between the major socioeconomic sectors, notably Indians (communities and hacienda workers) and the economic groups which dominate them.

College of William and Mary

Stephen B. Brush


The marvel of Margarita Giesecke's slim Masas urbanas y rebelión en la historia is its extraordinary clarity. In it one finds clarity of purpose, of exposition, and certainly the argument of its conclusions rings clear as well. The purpose of this account is to "discover and analyze" the limeño masses participating actively in the overthrow and ritualistic murder of General Tomás Gutiérrez in July 1872. On July 21, 1872, General Gutiérrez had overthrown by coup d'etat President José Balta; and five days later he was himself overthrown by a popular uprising in Lima.

Professor Giesecke's purpose is to analyze the social and economic dynamics of the latter incident in order to explain the social relations implicit to the events. Although perhaps she does not succeed entirely in accounting empirically for the composition of the various workers' groups, her efforts do yield new important insights. For instance, she gives a good account of how the elites of the Partido Civil managed popular fervor in favor of their own objectives. She also shows how the masses involved were not composed of the "lower orders"—the unemployed, vagrants, or thieves—but on the contrary were made up of the workers feeling the economic pinch of the moment.

The emphasis in this highly intelligent study is decidedly on method and purpose of explanation, and, curiously, while its philosophical inspiration is markedly European, its spirit is very nationally Peruvian.

Santa Barbara, California

Jesús Chavarría


This book is a journalistic account of the experiences of undocumented Mexican migrants who come to the United States. The author did extensive fieldwork along the border and in several points in the interior United States to present the problem from various perspectives, including the viewpoints of many illegals as well as those of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. In doing her research, Halsell crossed the border illegally three times and lived and worked among unregistered aliens. The author has great empathy for her subjects. Her technique here is similar to that used in two previous books, Soul Sister and Bessie Yellowhair, which involved looking like and living with Blacks and Navajos.