that the years 1735–1770 were ones of economic stagnation, even of prolonged depression, accompanied by plagues and agrarian crises. So much for the Bourbon expansion. (6) The last thirty years of the century saw renewed growth, but not at a very impressive rate.

The book is packed with information on the laws, methods of accounting, and Church uses and reinvestments of the diezmos. It compares Oaxaca with Puebla and Mexico, and suggests further areas for research. It should be read by all interested in the economic history of New Spain in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

University of Arizona

**Murdo J. MacLeod**


This book contains the indispensable texts of the Spanish conquest printed in full. The location of the source is appended to each document, and a brief note of recent editions and, in some cases, of commentary or related material, follow. The word “theory” in the title refers mainly to what is implied in these texts which, as one reads them, illustrate the evolution of Spain’s imperial design.

This volume is a most welcome standby reference to the unique documentation of the Spanish conquest which the author has assembled over thirty years of work in the field. He opens with a list of Portuguese bulls and the text of *Romanus Pontifex* of 1453. The last texts are of the ordinances concerning pacification in 1573. The book represents a backbone of documentation to the many studies by Morales Padrón, especially his *Fisionomía de la conquista* and *Historia del descubrimiento y conquista de América*. It is a very useful addition to scholarly reference.

U.L.


Reviewers in professional journals often exhibit a severe attitude toward historical essays by their amateur brethren. Niall Fallon’s careful scrutiny of the fate of the Spanish Armada as it scuttled down the western coast of Ireland provides an exception to this tradition. The methods of investigation and standards of proof are as exacting as those demanded of academic historians. The story of the Armada in Ireland is more likely to interest Irish historians, for it contains a thorough evaluation of the local folklore still extant in Ireland concerning the number and location of Armada wrecks. The book does not focus on either Spanish policy or the European context to any significant degree. The author concludes that twenty-six ships, fully one-fifth of the Armada, were lost in Irish waters. He has calculated as well that some 6,000 men were shipwrecked off Ireland; of these only 750 eventually returned to Spain, with approximately 3,750 drowned and the remaining 1,500 executed by the English and Irish. Careful analysis and persuasive argument support these figures.

The most important consequence of the Armada’s Irish experiences lay in reinforcing Spanish reluctance to aid the subsequent Ulster rebellion when Spanish assistance might have perpetuated the Earl of Tyrone’s campaign. Because of Irish enthusiasm, either from fear or greed, in handing over Spanish survivors to English authorities, Ireland never again appeared so attractive as an area where English weakness might offer significant advantage.