

*State Formation in the Liberal Era: Capitalisms and Claims of Citizenship in Mexico and Peru.* Edited by Ben Fallaw and David Nugent. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2020. ISBN: 9780816540389.

This recent collection of nine essays analyzes the ways in which Mexico and Peru built and rebuilt their nation-states after independence. Reviewing two major time periods, 1850-1900 and 1900-1950, editors Ben Fallaw and David Nugent and a selection of authors depict how various actors defined (or not) the national state and how that state engaged in the international economy. The overall argument is that numerous, contested efforts, intimately inclusive of economic processes, defined citizenship.

From chaotic liberal nation-building through the Great Depression to mid-century, *State Formation in the Liberal Era* examines the “great centers of Latin American life,” Mexico and Peru. Although geographically thin reasoning around which to build an intellectual project, the significance and breadth of essays selected from over four years of Latin American Studies Association panels, as well as input from the incomparable Alan Knight, justify Fallaw and Nugent’s inventive contribution.

The preface frames the subsequent essays and the overall project with an intriguing alternative definition of the term “state” that, rather than being the source of legitimate force, only *claims* to be such. Two section introductions provide detailed historical context for the time periods into which the essays are divided. The essays themselves evaluate the varying degrees of connection between political economy and state-building through topics including taxation and national-banking systems, conscripted labor, undocumented populations, peasant, worker, and non-state actor power, and cooperatives. All but two use archival sources in addition to published primary sources and secondary literature. Ranging in style and success, the essays are most

effective for their engagement with geography, conceptions of citizenship, and fluctuating social and economic alliances.

Through a sustained investigation of geographies, including the ways in which relationships and processes differed particularly across regional and sub-regional levels, Carlos Contreras's chapter 1 on the evolution of Peruvian tax collection and Paulo Drinot's chapter 6 on the Ticapampa silver mine clarify the importance of variations within nation-wide patterns. The tension inherent in varying concepts of citizenship is reflected in Sarah Washbrook's chapter 3 on modernization in Chiapas under Governor Emilio Rabasa, in José Ragas's chapter 4 about the historical process in Peru of documenting citizens and therefore creating an "ignored" (i.e., undocumented) population, and in David Nugent's chapter 7 on the impact of elite casta rivalries on the provisioning of conscripted labor in Chachapoyas. Shifting alliances, often shaping and interrupting circuits of capital, are illustrated in Thomas Passananti's chapter 2 on the joint French-Mexican national Banco Nacional de México, where the Porfirian state was not being manipulated by foreign interests as much as doing the manipulating, and in Benjamin T. Smith's chapter 9 where historical practices of coerced labor shaped post-revolutionary Mexico.

As an anthology on how state claims of legitimacy contended with the inconsistencies among modern liberalism and premodern practices in Latin America, Fallaw and Nugent's work is successful. The contributors emphasize how changing notions of identity and self-determination ran headlong into the reality of diverse lived experiences and long-standing cultural patterns. The pieces by David Nugent, Thomas Passananti, and José Ragas are wonderfully innovative. The strongest theoretical contribution is that of Nugent reworking the definition of the state as that with the claim to legitimate violence rather than with the actual possession. The chapters by Passananti on foreign and domestic economic partnership in Mexico

and by Ragas on the creation of undocumented populations in Peru perform important applied work by resonating with contemporary concerns and providing historical framework. The book is also recommendable as a concise yet detailed overview of the history of Mexico and Peru from 1850-1950, and the section introductions would serve well for short background readings in university courses.

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