

cally, in the border area between imperial Europe and pre-colonial Africa.

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Jose R. Deustua. *The Bewitchment of Silver: The Social Economy of Mining in Nineteenth-Century Peru*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press, 2000; 290pp., paper, \$28.

This small book of 189 pages is of interest far beyond its author's narrow intention. While its beginning and end are presented in the language of scholarly argument, its middle section makes sensible and worthwhile reading for anyone who wants to learn more about the history of Peruvian (and by extension, Latin American) mining.

First, ignore the "bewitchment" in the title; it has nothing to do with the text, which is reasonable and factual. Second, get beyond the introduction, which sounds defensive, even accusatory: "mining . . . was crucial for nineteenth-century Peru, although badly understood by current historiography." After a slap at various other schools of thought, Deustua boldly announces:

I also introduce a new concept for the social and historical sciences in today's world, that of social economy. . . . Throughout the book the reader will notice my questioning of the validity of economic and quantitative analysis, of the role of social history in understanding historical events, and of the importance of the individual and of social classes as actors in the human drama.

His thesis is that "mining was a constant engine of development of the Peruvian national economy." He claims that this is "revisionist" and that it "contradicts the conventional view." Despite this academic posturing, his presentation of his subject is thoroughly readable.

Helpful maps and charts and a few photos are included, as well as ample endnotes, an impressive bibliography, and an index. Deustua supports his claim that mining, although overshadowed by the guano boom, continued to be important through the nineteenth century. He discusses clearly the differences, economical, technological, and social, between copper and silver mining. The first chapter, on mining production, is a masterful analysis, relating the Peruvian domestic scene to the international situation, and briefly recalling historic precedents as well as forecasting later developments.

In a chapter on mining as social system and as market, he discusses the mines, mine owners, mine workers, and labor relations. During the century, ownership became more concentrated in a few families, even including female relatives, to form a wealthy and powerful class of "predominantly white, Peruvian Creoles of Spanish and other European origin (with a few mestizos), who felt themselves attached to a European cultural tradition." They were separated racially, culturally, and socially from the workers. Deustua vividly presents the circumstances of "the transitory peasant-miner [who] never became a true proletariat during the nineteenth century." Lured or forced to work under terrible conditions, he could bear it "because mine work was just a temporary occupation, and was paid in money."

Deustua identifies marketing, finance, and transportation as the bottlenecks in the development of mining at that time. He analyzes the muleteering system as crucial, continuing in its importance even after the railroads came. He tells the complete story of railroad development, including vital coastal lines and other Andean routes, as well as the famous accomplishments of Henry Meiggs, the "Yankee Pizarro," in the Andes.

He concludes that:

mine owners and the mining industry were largely motivated by the extraction of rents (from labor or from the abundance and quality of

virgin natural resources), rather than the modern creation and pursuit of profit. Modern economic concepts, such as productivity or efficiency, were in general out of the minds, or at least out of reach, of government officials, mine owners, and, particularly, merchants.

By the end of the century, however, things changed, as copper mining overtook silver mining. "Silver mining tended to foster domestic markets in nineteenth-century Peru, whereas copper encouraged more of an open export economy."

Deustua poses questions in his foreword, all of which he answers: What was the structure of the mining sector in nineteenth-century Peru? What was the contribution of mining to the national economy and society? What was its quantitative and qualitative importance? What were the real dimensions of this specific economic sector within the nineteenth-century Peruvian economy? He achieves his stated goal to demonstrate the consistency of the Peruvian mining industry throughout the nineteenth century. This book provides source material relevant not only for the history of silver mining in Peru, but also for most of Latin America and other parts of the world where mining is developing as a sector of the "social economy."

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Lee Scamehorn. *High Altitude Energy: A History of Fossil Fuels in Colorado*. Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2002; 244 pp., 15 photos, 10 figures, 5 maps, 3 tables, ind., bib. essay, cloth, \$27.50.

In *High Altitude Energy*, Lee Scamehorn, professor emeritus of history at the University of Colorado, sets himself the formidable task of surveying fossil fuels' exploration, production and use in Colorado from its territorial days through the twentieth century. He succeeds impressively in this slim

volume of 210 pages of text and a 14-page bibliographic essay.

A title in the University Press of Colorado's Mining the American West series, *High Altitude Energy* covers the rise and fall of Colorado coal for smelting, steelmaking, and heating from 1860 to 1930, and its resurgence since the 1960s as the primary fuel for generating electricity. Colorado's oil business, which dates from 1860s discoveries near Cañon City and burgeoned in the 1920s, is examined to the present, as are manufactured and natural gas development, which also began in the territorial days. Colorado's three flirtations with synthetic fuels (chiefly oil shale) during the world wars and as a result of the energy crisis of the 1970s are also considered in some detail. In a work of such breadth, Scamehorn must deal with subjects concisely. He treats in five pages Colorado's coal mine labor unrest that began in the 1870s, reached its infamous apex in the coalfield wars of the 1910s, and ended with the Columbine mine killings of 1927.

High Altitude Energy is abundantly illustrated with photographs, maps, figures, and tables. For whatever reason, most of the photos appear in the first half of the text, the figures and tables in the second half, with the maps being more evenly distributed. The maps showing the distribution of Colorado's energy resources are particularly useful. Scamehorn eschews citations in favor of the aforementioned bibliographic essay. This reviewer is ambivalent about that choice. It certainly produces an unencumbered text more appealing to the casual reader, but it also makes it impossible for scholars to determine whence particular facts and conclusions derive.

And *High Altitude Energy* is packed with facts. The breadth of subjects Scamehorn covers is impressive. But in contrast to an abundance of facts, dates, places, and statistics, the text is largely devoid of personalities, making for somewhat detached reading. Scamehorn might also have covered the entire subject of energy production in Colorado by adding one chapter on the his-