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Independence in Latin America: Contrasts and Comparisons, 3rd Edition

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Independence in Latin America: Contrasts and Comparisons, Third Edition by Richard Graham. University of Texas Press, Austin. 2013. Contents: Illustrations. Acknowledgments. Introduction. Chapters 1-6. Documents. Chronology. Glossary. Notes. Illustration Credits. Index. Maps. Figures. Pg. 194. Paperback. \$24.94.

The bicentennial celebrations of Latin American independences have given a new impulse to the study of the emancipation processes of the American nations that were once part of the Spanish and Portuguese empires. These revitalized enthusiasm, backed with institutional support and with a clear national underpinning, has sparked national studies as well new approaches that examine Latin American independences as a whole within an Atlantic and hemispheric revolutionary context. Therefore, this new third edition of Richard Graham's classic *Independence in Latin America* (first edition 1972, second edition 1994) is greatly welcome. Graham's book analyzes the socio-economic and ideological intricacies that led to the emancipation movements in Latin America from a comparative and Atlantic perspective. Graham has again updated his textbook with new research, including the role played by non-elites and the effects of war and violence on Latin Americans. The addition of an appendix with primary sources to this edition makes the book more complete for undergraduate use. The book stands out for its concision and clarity of exposition, sharp analysis, and judicious selection of primary sources.

The book, like its two previous editions, follows a chronological organization in six chapters. After a succinct introduction the first three chapters overview the American and Iberian preludes to the wars for independence. Chapter one sets the historical context on the decades prior to independence, with a focus on the enlightened restructuring of the Spanish and Portuguese empires and the precedent set by the Haitian revolution. Chapter two outlines Latin American reactions to changes emanating from Lisbon and Madrid in the late eighteenth century.

Through comparative analysis among regions, Graham explains how two colonial empires eventually gave birth to multiple nations. Graham intriguingly contrasts Argentina and Uruguay to Chile, Venezuela to Mexico and Central America, and Peru to Brazil. The next chapter transfers the reader to European affairs and their influence on the Latin American revolutions. This chapter focuses on the institutional crisis on both sides of the Atlantic after the French invasion of the Iberian Peninsula.

Like in previous editions, Graham breaks the war events chronologically in two distinct wars around 1816, comprising each one chapter 5 and 6. The level of detail varies for each country, Mexico and Brazil standing out for lengthier discussions. While identity self-consciousness appeared more visible during the first war (1810-1816), Spanish violence and repression and Portuguese insensitivity widened the divides between Iberia and the colonies. Each of these two chapters concludes with an interesting comparative analysis of the distinct emancipation movements with a focus on socioeconomic aspects, ideological reforms, and leadership. The last chapter uncorks the consequences of the wars to the different social actors. Particularly interesting to U.S. readers, who commonly wonder why Latin American nations and the United States took different paths, Graham analyzes how extreme violence, geographical difficulties, the particular cultural realities, local vs. national leaderships, and economic dependency brought a swinging beginning to the new republics.

A novelty in this edition, Graham's book includes an appendix with eight documents that range from *laissez faire* doctrines, racial divisions, excerpts from Bolívar's famous letter from Jamaica to Mexican Vicente Guerrero's view on Mexican independence. The sources do not stand alone. Graham judiciously refers to them throughout the text. The third edition further appends a list of five recent scholarly works. To help students and readers in general, the book

includes a Spanish-English term glossary and a detailed chronology. *Independence in Latin America* remains an outstanding undergraduate textbook as well as a useful introductory work to the lay reader. This is therefore a welcome updated third edition of an already popular book that comes at an opportune time.

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Latin American Tariffs from Independence to the Great DepressionTM, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, vol. 36, no. 2 (2004), pp. 205-32. 14. 14 Centeno, "Blood and DebtTM", shows that most countries in Latin America suffered major wars in the half-century after independence. 66 Irving Stone, "British Direct and Portfolio Investment in Latin America before 1914TM", *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 37, no. 3 (1977), pp. 690-722. A significant share of the increase in government debt probably represented the funding of defaulted interest obligations rather than new capital: see Carlos Marichal, *A Century of Debt Crises in Latin America: From Independence to the Great Depression, 1820-1930* (Princeton, 1989). The final victory of Latin American patriots over Spain and the fading loyalist factions began in 1808 with the political crisis in Spain. With the Spanish king and his son Ferdinand taken hostage by Napoleon, Creoles and peninsulars began to jockey for power across Spanish America. During 1808-10 juntas emerged to rule in the name of Ferdinand VII. The struggles that produced independence in the south began even before Napoleon's invasion of Portugal and Spain. In 1806 a British expeditionary force captured Buenos Aires. When the Spanish colonial officials proved ineffective against the invasion, a volunteer militia of Creoles and peninsulars organized resistance and pushed the British out. "Independence in Latin America is one of the most succinct, accurate, provocative, and comprehensive views on the historical 'big bang' that occurred in the Western world between 1776 and 1830. It would be hard to find, in so few pages, so much information so easily digestible." (Mauricio Tenorio, professor of history, University of Chicago). What listeners say about Independence in Latin America: Contrasts and Comparisons. Average Customer Ratings. Overall. Latin America - Building Influence and Trust in the World. December 8, 2015. www.protocolo.com.mx At present, Latin America includes Spanish-speaking countries from Argentina to Mexico and Portuguese-speaking Brazil. It also comprises the countries and territories of the Caribbean basin, including 14 independent English-speaking countries and French-speaking Haiti. It also has dependencies with semi-colonial status: six belonging to the United Kingdom, five to France, six to the Netherlands and two to the United States. For these countries, international law is the only legal instrument for upholding their sovereignty and independence. This is why Latin America has contributed many useful ideas to international legal science, using the law to further its own interests.