

Los capítulos 6 y 7 regresan al Proyecto, y la narrativa ahora nos devuelve a la vida de seres pequeños: los trabajadores del archivo. Se indaga aquí en las consecuencias que acarrearón para estos trabajadores de la memoria sus experiencias en el mismo: cómo el trabajo con estos papeles les llevó a abrir viejas heridas, con las que tuvieron que volver a aprender a lidiar. Estos capítulos abarcan dos cohortes generacionales: quienes vivieron la guerra; y aquellos otros, más jóvenes, para quienes la guerra fue un evento de su pasado.

Con *Paper Cadavers*, la joven historiadora Kirsten Weld ha entrado en la lista de autores imprescindibles para entender la historia de la guerra fría en América Latina.

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PAULO DRINOT AND ALAN KNIGHT (EDS.): *The Great Depression in Latin America*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014.

The Great Depression struck Latin America in several principal forms: collapsing commodity prices, the end of foreign investment, balance of payments deficits, and rising unemployment particularly in some rural sectors. In various countries—Brazil, Mexico, and Peru—the depression prompted defaults on the foreign debt. Its social consequences included falling urban real wages, commonly as a result of monetary depreciation, and the displacement of peasant producers, which prompted mass migration and the eventual expansion of the region's great cities. In 1930-1933 around half the region suffered unscheduled changes of government, mostly as a result of military coups d'état. Falling prices and stagnant demand for several Latin American agricultural commodities—principally sugar, coffee, and wheat—provided foretastes of the depression, although in the 1930s mineral producing countries tied to heavy industry abroad suffered some of its worst effects. Latin America played no part in causing the depression, whose origins lay in global imbalances created by US protectionism and German reparations. Likewise, Latin America had no part in prolonging the depression or in eventually terminating it, a turning point achieved by deficit spending, rearmament, and the outbreak of World War II.

The impact of the depression proved highly uneven, and this book would have benefited by a summary of its broad impact on different countries. A table showing respective export earnings in 1928 and 1932 would illustrate where the slump hit hardest and where its effects remained weakest. It would show that in Chile and Cuba, copper and sugar producers respectively exporting to the United

States, suffered most. In Chile, export earnings fell to scarcely a quarter of those earnings of the late 1920s, providing a context for the extreme social dislocation among workers ably and innovatively studied by Angela Vergara in this volume. Cuba, as presented in broader terms than Chile by Gillian McGillivray, provides an analogous case. At the other end of the spectrum non-exporting countries like Honduras or Paraguay remained largely immune to the depression. Between the extremes stood many intermediate cases requiring additional methods of classification: the location of foreign markets, the structure and content of export economies, and the size of regional economies in cases like Brazil's where São Paulo overshadowed the rest of the country. Joel Wolfe's chapter on Brazil identifies Getulio Vargas as a more traditionally patrimonial leader than commonly thought, a pattern reflecting the opposition he faced in São Paulo throughout the depression period. As reiterated by Alan Knight when discussing Mexico, subsistence farming was another important analytical variable that cushioned the effects of the depression. Degrees of exposure to exogenous forces provides a way to assess whether the depression derailed pre-existing internal trajectories or left them intact. Knight assembles the complex picture we might expect in a country of moderate external linkages and high regional variety. On the one hand, the depression merely intensified the internal trajectory leading toward agrarian reform beginning with the Mexican Revolution; on the other, it impelled the proto-Keynesian financial reforms under Alberto Pani of the early thirties.

As a Peru specialist, Paulo Drinot, author of the introduction to this volume, takes aim at the classic interpretation of the depression as the instigator of progressive change through the rise of import-substituting industrialization, state interventionism, and so-called social politics. The critique is well taken since the established view is narrowly based on Argentina. By far the most developed nation of the region at the time by such standards as foreign trade, domestic consumption, education, telephones, cars, and railways, Argentina appears an odd choice of model scarcely representative of the entire region. The classical thesis is not wholly persuasive even in Argentina since "social politics" in the guise of Juan Perón derived from the political crisis of liberalism during World War II and not from the depression. Roy Hora's synopsis of Argentina in the 1930s thus correctly stresses social continuity and political demobilisation rather than rupture. Wolfe's account of Brazil, a case of less dramatic change than often thought, illustrates the basic limitations of the Argentina-inspired model. The case for making Vargas a major agent of change is much stronger in 1943-1954 than during the 1930s. Two compelling essays by Drinot and Carlos Contreras on Peru and by Marcelo Bucheli and Luis Felipe Sáenz on Colombia perceive the growth of government as the main result of the depression. The trend grew visible in social reform in Peru and in subsidies to coffee producers in Colom-

bia. Beset by the rule of Juan Vicente Gómez until 1935 and then by struggles over his succession, Venezuela as discussed by Doug Yarrington provides an example of a country in which the depression had minimal impact. This country remained shielded by underdevelopment under Gómez and then by its lucrative oil resource under his successors. Afflicted by collapsing coffee prices, the peasants of El Salvador endured the infamous *matanza* of 1932. As detailed by Jeffrey L. Gould, in the 1930s this country and neighbouring Guatemala saw the rise of paternalist military dictatorships. The consolidation of clientelism in El Salvador and the balancing of parallel ideologies of *mestizaje* and *indigenismo* in Guatemala provide Gould's principal themes.

Alan Knight's wide ranging Conclusion identifies numerous legacies of the Depression but argues that it initiated very little. He places himself in the camp of authors opting for an "internal trajectories" view of Latin American history as opposed to those who magnify the effects of "exogenous shocks." The complete story draws on both approaches as exemplified by Knight's chapter on Mexico. Indigenous innovations in depression-era Latin America were confined to new techniques of conservative political management exemplified by Central America. The imposed novelties—derived still at this point from liberal and not authoritarian preceptors—led principally to transition in the state. The revolutionary impact of the depression became visible in new institutions headed by the Central Banks and in powerful tools of economic management and control like exchange control and devaluation.

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**PABLO SCHARAGRODSKY: *Miradas Medicas sobre la Cultura Fisica en Argentina*. Buenos Aires: Prometeo, 2014.**

En 1996, un grupo de profesores de la Universidad de Buenos Aires organizaron las primeras Jornadas sobre Deporte y Ciencias Sociales que se desarrollaron en la Argentina. Entre varias novedades producidas por el encuentro, se cuentan un volumen colectivo (compilado por Alabarces, Frydenberg y Di Giano, y publicado por la editorial universitaria, Eudeba, en 1998); dos conferencias del antropólogo Eduardo Archetti, en la inauguración y en el cierre de las Jornadas; y una activa presencia de profesores de educación física, atraídos por la posibilidad de debatir con colegas de otras disciplinas —que se reclutaban, especialmente, entre la sociología, la antropología y la historia, aunque con un componente no menor proveniente de los estudios sobre medios y comunicación de masas.