

and land concentration as well as the challenges of neoliberal globalisation and transnational capital which often have negative consequences for their wellbeing. But this is a topic for another book.

It is also a pioneering book for its style and in the way it integrates structure and agency in the analysis of processes of social change. Readers can learn many lessons from this book about social theory, methodology and how best to deepen our understanding of processes of social transformation. In short, this book makes a major contribution not only to Peruvian studies but more generally also to development studies, anthropological studies and peasant studies.

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ROBERT L. SMALE: *I Sweat the Flavor of Tin: Labor Activism in Early Twentieth-Century Bolivia*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010.

With social movements making the running in Bolivian politics in recent years, it is hardly surprising that there has been something of an explosion in the study of labour politics – past and present. Robert Smale’s book is a valuable contribution to the writing on labour history in Bolivia, specifically on the early development of mining unions. Much of the literature on this topic refers to the later period – the 1940s and (in particular) the 1950s when the Bolivian miners played such a conspicuous role in the making of the ‘National Revolution’ of 1952. Less has been written, especially in English, on the formative period of union development in the 1920s.

The focus of this book is on the so-called ‘massacre’ of Uncía in June 1923, when troops from the Bolivian army turned their guns on striking mineworkers in this small town of northern Potosí. Although the death toll was relatively modest – some six people were killed all-in-all – the conflict was a precursor to more bloody confrontations later on, the Catavi massacre in 1942 when 35 people were killed, and of course the San Juan massacre in 1967. All three incidents took place in the same area of the country, the key mining district of Llallagua-Siglo XX where Bolivia’s most important tin mines were located.

Smale sees the Uncía massacre as a pivotal point, marking an end to a period of paternalism in the relations between capital and labour and the beginning of a period of outright confrontation, with the development of increasingly class-conscious syndicalism on the one hand and a more capitalistic mining enterprise on the other. Indeed, the book provides a much broader time horizon than just the politics of industrial relations of the 1920s would suggest. The first chapter, for instance, charts the development of mining in Bolivia from the time of the

Conquest in the 16th century, stressing the heterogeneity in the forms of labour organisation in the silver mines of the time. The final chapters take the story on through the 1930s and 1940s, albeit in schematic form. They trace the development of increasingly autonomous labour organisations, with the rise of a socialist inspired leadership, the formation of a national mineworkers federation (the FSTMB) in 1944, and the formulation of its Trotskyist-inspired credo, the 1946 Thesis of Pulacayo.

However, the 1920s forms a coherent unit of time in which to observe the transition in labour relations. Economically, the period begins with the post-war boom in minerals prices and ends with the crash of 1929-30. This was a period in which the ownership of Bolivian mines underwent marked concentration, not least the consolidation of what was to become the Patiño empire. Politically, it begins with the replacement in 1920 of the Liberal Party in power by the Republican Party and ends with the overthrow of Hernando Siles in 1930 and the eventual downfall of the Republicans at the time of the Chaco War (1932-35). Even though the Republican governments encouraged unionisation at the start and introduced pro-labour legislation (particularly under Siles), Smale considers the Republicans to be an extension of the sort of patriarchal, aristocratic government that took root in the late 19th century that represented the country's dominant classes.

One of this book's main contributions is the fruit of the author's painstaking archival research in Oruro, particularly the Patiño archives at the Universidad Técnica de Oruro and the archives of the departmental prefecture. As class conflict developed in the 1920s, the role of the state – and in particular its local representative, the prefect – became instrumental in the evolution of politics. The triangular relationship between nascent labour federations, mining companies and the state was key, and the archives include a wealth of information as to how these relationships developed. In his chapter on the 1923 Uncía 'masacre', Smale is able to reconstruct with detail the various manoeuvres and tactics employed by the workers, the bosses and the 'forces of law and order'. The confrontation saw state authorities come ever more under the domination of increasingly powerful mining companies, in this case the Patiño-owned La Salvadora mine and the Chilean-owned Tin Company of Llallagua (which Patiño took over a year later in 1924).

The archive work apart, the book quotes widely from other well-known works, notably Herbert Klein's *Parties and Political Change in Bolivia, 1880-1952* (Cambridge University Press, 1969) and Guillermo Lora's *Historia del movimiento obrero boliviano* (Amigos del Libro, 1967). The section on the Uncía massacre also quotes liberally from Gumercindo Rivera's *La masacre de Uncía* (Universidad Técnica de Oruro, 1967). Rivera himself played a key role in the

conflict as one of the mineworkers' main leaders, himself travelling to La Paz in a doomed attempt to lobby President Saavedra. He ended up being arrested and forcibly prevented from returning to the north Potosí mining area. Smale seeks to compare his account of events with those of other witnesses to the massacre.

The book is well written and structured, and the chapters highlight themes as well as following a (largely) chronological narrative. It contains some interesting asides, which add to its value. Smale interestingly highlights the role played by urban artisans in the development of a union consciousness, and indeed it was the fact that non-mine workers were involved in the union in northern Potosí that the companies used as a pretext not to negotiate with them. He provides a useful section that compares the development of Bolivian mining with that in Chile in the early twentieth century; indeed (as the Tin Company of Llallagua showed) Chilean interests played a significant part in the Bolivian story. He also has a section on the role played by women in the mining communities, in particular as workers involved in the sorting of raw ores according to their quality, the so-called *palliris*.

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WENDY WOLFORD: *This Land is Ours Now: Social Mobilization and the Meanings of Land in Brazil*. Durham & London: Duke University Press, 2010.

In *This Land Is Ours Now*, Wendy Wolford takes an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the “movement within the movement” inside Brazil’s famous Movement of Rural Workers without Land (MST). Wolford bases her analysis upon intensive research in two municipalities: one in the southern state of Santa Catarina where small-holders predominate, and the other in the northeastern littoral sugarcane zone of Pernambuco where salaried workers are the norm.

Wolford’s book joins the burgeoning literature on the MST’s impact in Brazil. Her broader theoretical and historical overviews are the book’s strengths. She deserves credit for her grassroots research on how the MST came into being in the south, and then spread into other areas of Brazil where, sometimes, the social conditions for MST expansion were less than favorable. This is what she discovered in Pernambuco. In the 1990s, some wage workers chose to articulate the call for agrarian reform, establish a network of small holdings, and abandon the life of salaried sugar workers. However, their embrace of the MST proved short-lived. By the mid-2000s, most had left it to engage in sugarcane cash cropping, eschewing the MST’s ideologies of crop diversification, collective labor