Council of Economic Advisors is mentioned as reason for delay in finishing a monetary treatise (p. 15), a wait that extended to 1998 (!), so that generations of Yale students instead relied on mimeographed material; what explains that long wait? A footnote (p. 160) mentions an unpublished manuscript on the intellectual development of macroeconomics. And these are just three examples. A future biographer will find many more clues to follow up in this short and valuable book.

Perry Mehrling
Barnard College

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Barbara H. Stein and Stanley J. Stein, *Crisis in an Atlantic Empire: Spain and New Spain, 1808–1810* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014), pp. ix + 664, $89.95. ISBN 978-1-4214-1424-9.

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In 1970, Barbara and Stanley Stein released their slim but influential work, *The Colonial Heritage of Latin America*. The arguments they made nearly fifty years ago continue to inform their works, including the four hefty volumes they have released in the past dozen years. For the Steins, Spain was always an underdeveloped country, subordinate and dependent on England and France, the hegemonic powers of Europe. Backwardness, however, did not relegate Spain to being irrelevant because of the enormous wealth of the Spanish colonies. Just like the greater powers reduced Spain to a satellite, Spain subordinated its colonies, imposing a colonialism that syphoned seemingly unlimited precious metals back to the Iberian "Metropole." Indeed, the Steins argue implicitly that it is the Spanish colonies and their treasures that should be placed at the center of analysis of early modern Europe.

The 664 pages of the present volume are focused primarily on the two years 1808 to 1810 that began with Napoleon's entry into Spain and the collapse of the Spanish monarchy, and continued through Father Miguel Hidalgo's Revolution in Mexico. Joseph Bonaparte's ascension to the throne sparked pro-Fernando VII autonomy movements throughout the empire, both in Spain and Spanish America. No single

Spanish voice reigned supreme after 1808, and yet, as the Steins argue, the Iberian juntas that formed were all motivated to ensure the continued control of the Spanish colonies, to avoid losing the source of Spain's imperial finances. The best means of ensuring their continued attachment, however, became the subject of intense debate. Competing groups in Iberia and America attempted to shape the outcome.

During the final third of the eighteenth century, Spanish policymakers introduced trade reforms to liberalize the commercial policies that had regulated exchange with the colonies since the early conquest era. So-called *comercio libre* gradually introduced after 1765 was opposed vehemently by the "monopoly merchants" of Andalusia and their partners in Mexico and Peru, who saw the overthrow of Ferdinand VII as an opportunity to scale back some of the liberalization. Others, such as the merchants of Havana and Caracas, wished to open trade still more, to allow foreign ships to enter their ports freely. Such issues became central in the peninsular struggles for control between the competing regional juntas in the brief era under examination. The Steins follow these debates with meticulous detail, as they see in these trade policies the central issue determining the survival of the Spanish empire. Indeed, this massive book examines many dozens of the principal actors and interest groups in both Spain and the colonies, especially Cuba and Mexico, as they jockeyed for influence and dominance during these two challenging years of uncertainty.

Ultimately, the Junta de Cádiz garnered (or retained) the most influence, bolstered by allies in New Spain especially. Protected by geography and English ground and naval forces, Spain's busiest port and richest merchants survived comparatively unscathed by the French occupation. The Cádiz merchant community provided a substantial percentage of the resistance (Fernandista) government's revenues, giving them the most influential voice in policymaking, though one could argue whether anyone in Iberia held sway in the colonies. Cádiz's might is unfortunate in the eyes of the authors, as, for them, the Cádiz merchants (and their allies in Mexico) were the most reactionary interest group in the empire.

Throughout the book (indeed, dominant in all their works, going back to their 1970 classic), the wealthy "monopoly merchants" of Andalusia are depicted as commercial parasites, devoid of entrepreneurial spirit and unabashed in their use of political and financial muscle to blackmail and bribe anyone who might threaten the status quo, a colonial commercial system designed to produce easy and excessive profits for them. The dominance of the Junta de Cádiz by 1810, then, produced predictable results.

In too many ways, the central arguments of this book seem dated, or at least the underlying theories do. Dependency theory shapes the way that the Steins depict Spain's international relations and its imperial structure. Several decades of historical work have painted a much more nuanced picture of the *Consulado* merchants than the caricature presented here. The depiction of early modern Spain as backwards and underdeveloped is reminiscent of earlier Black Legend interpretations, but is rejected by many modern historians.

But perhaps this is irrelevant, for the greatest strength of this book is not so much in its arguments as in its truly remarkable, magisterial use of archival sources. No historical actor is introduced without multiple pages of accompanying biographical background. The analysis of every event is placed in an extraordinarily rich and detailed historical context. The authors' 100 pages of notes are overwhelmingly archival citations from the twenty-three archives that they consulted in the book's production. Their mastery

of the details, familiarity with the players, and command of the interrelated historical events make this monograph (and their earlier three related ones) the unquestioned definitive source for Spain's political economy in the early modern era, an encyclopedic yet delightful legacy of this remarkable historical team, Barbara and Stanley Stein.

Jeremy Baskes
Ohio Wesleyan University

Richard van den Berg, ed., *Richard Cantillon's Essay on the Nature of Trade in General: A Variorum Edition*, by Richard Cantillon (London and New York: Routledge, 2015), pp. 514, $200. ISBN 978-1-13801-458-9.

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Richard van den Berg delights in puzzles. That is all for the best, since Richard Cantillon's life and work contain so many of them, and van den Berg is so clever and patient in handling them. Cantillon may have been murdered and burnt in his London home in 1734, or perhaps the headless corpse discovered in the ashes was a decoy that allowed him to slip away to Surinam. Conveniently, no portrait existed to aid identification. But the nature of his demise is not the main mystery that runs throughout this variorum edition of Cantillon's *Essay on the Nature of Trade in General*. The real mystery concerns the existence and influence of additional manuscript versions of this great work. These may have been lost to the moist Surinamese climate, or they may be patiently awaiting the right moment to reappear.

So this variorum edition constantly questions its completeness. Van den Berg draws from no less than eleven different sources, some clearly more important than others. Rather than weaving the eleven into one text and relegating variations to an appendix, van den Berg arranges them like puzzle pieces on a tray—in such a way that the reader can scan across the page and take them all in simultaneously. There is no flipping forwards and backwards between a main text and an appendix, because all the relevant information is right in front of you. As the book sits open before you, both the left (verso) and right (recto) pages are in use simultaneously, thus doubling the space upon which the puzzle pieces can be laid out. Consequently, each book opening can accommodate six columns of information, which are referenced and tied together by a clear paragraph-numbering system. This layout urges and allows readers to draw their own conclusions about how the pieces fit together.

The provenance of the sources is discussed in considerable detail in the second chapter, on the historical background to the texts. The text of the 1755 print edition appears in the first of the six columns; this was likely published, according to Antoin E. Murphy (1986, pp. 306–308), with *permission tacit* by Pierre André Guillyn. The fifth column reports variations found in two manuscripts at the Archives National and one at the municipal library of Rouen, all closely connected with Honoré-Gabriel Riqueti, comte de Mirabeau. The manuscript recently discovered at the Archives National by Christine Théré and Loïc Charles has, for instance, both an introduction and running commentary supplied by Mirabeau. Van den Berg (p. 15) strongly suspects that the Archives National manuscripts derive from the "most authentic French source