

founders. The book will appeal to fans of Madison and to scholars of American political thought and the American founding.

GRAHAM G. DODDS *Concordia University*

Nineteenth-Century Nation Building and the Latin American Intellectual Tradition: A Reader

Janet Burke and Ted Humphrey, eds.

Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company Inc., 2007, pp. xii, 366.

doi:10.1017/S0008423909990825

Nineteenth-Century Nation Building and the Latin American Intellectual Tradition: A Reader is an impressive collection of works from several prominent thinkers (or *pensadores*) that constitute a philosophical foundation within and from the region. The excerpts cover vast political terrain, in both geographical and ideological terms, and represent accurately and richly a number of historical and enduring debates. The collection is timely and incredibly relevant; many countries in Latin America are currently undergoing profound political, social and economic change. The selected readings provide a historical point of departure for (as well as a multivariate historical understanding of) many present-day debates.

The anthology is organized chronologically, which is useful in that the reader gets a sense of how thought progressed in Latin America throughout the period of de-colonization. The editors identify some of the central themes in the introduction (x-xii) and have included a guide to themes as an appendix (365–66), which refers to various selections that address the central themes: Education for Citizenship and Economic Development; Foreign Relations; History: Its Nature and Uses; Political Organization; Race; Religion; and Women. However, greater integration of historical progression and thematic inquiry might have helped to guide readers through some rather dense theory and disparate historiography.

Many of the *pensadores* follow in the Enlightenment tradition, which can be discerned in their preoccupation with matters concerning citizenship, civil society, representation, and natural rights. It is remarkable that many of the *pensadores* seem to have been taken with more collectivistic notions of rights and entitlement. This orientation was shaped, in large part, in relation to the intense individualism of the American republic, which, as the editors state, was “a nation both admired and feared” (ix). The writings of Simon Bolivar, which begin the conversation in this book, demonstrate this conception of rights. Bolivar insists upon the supremacy of law that is generated from the citizens (of Venezuela) and not determined by Washington (8). He asks, “Who can resist the love that is inspired by an intelligent government that simultaneously links individual rights to general rights, that forms the supreme law of the individual will from the common will? Who can resist the rule of a benevolent government, which, with a skillful, active, and powerful hand, directs always and everywhere all its resources toward social perfection, the sole end of human institutions?” (9).

“On the Expulsion of This Republic Born in Spain” by Jose Maria Luis Mora (Mexico), is a compelling (and soberingly relevant) argument concerning justice and citizenship. This essay also addresses (critically) the role of the Catholic Church in nation building (as do many of the other contributions). Andres Bello (Venezuela/Chile) and Jose Victorino Lastarria (Chile) examine the “Black Legend,” which is the “view that the Spanish colonial past left Latin America ravished and unprepared for self-governance” (52).

The perennially important themes of socialism, inequality and revolution are addressed in the selected writings of Francisco Bilbao (Chile), Esteban Echeverria (Argentina) and José Martí (Cuba). Among these selections, and others, there is a

rich and varied discussion of both nationalism and pan-Americanism, which certainly resonates in contemporary political contexts. The editors have also included the often forgotten voices of women: Soledad Acosta de Samper (Colombia) and Clorinda Matto de Turner (Peru). However, the excerpts from Martí (arguably one of the most significant contributions in the volume), Acosta de Samper, and Matto de Turner are dis-satisfyingly brief.

The book achieves its goal of making accessible important contributions to the Latin American intellectual tradition throughout the nineteenth century, and demonstrates a complexity and diversity of thought which illuminates contemporary social, political, and philosophical debates. It is ideal for senior undergraduate and graduate courses on Latin American politics or history, as well as courses in political philosophy (which tend to ignore these regional conversations and focus almost exclusively on their European roots), and it is essential reading for anyone interested in developing a better understanding of the region of the Americas.

CANDACE JOHNSON *University of Guelph*

L'odyssée transnationale. Enjeux, acteurs, sites : une perspective minimaliste

Chalmers Larose

Les Presses de l'Université du Québec, Québec, 2008, 210 pages

doi:10.1017/S000842390999093X

Plusieurs études récentes ont mis en lumière l'émergence d'une société civile transnationale appelée à prendre de l'ampleur dans le sillage de la mondialisation. Différents acteurs non étatiques (organisations non gouvernementales (ONG), mouvements écologistes et groupes de défense des droits de la personne) articulent les débats autour d'un nouveau paradigme contestataire et concourent à renouveler le débat démocratique en s'écartant du cadre normatif stato-centré. Les manifestations lors des grands sommets internationaux (G8, Organisation mondiale du commerce, Fonds monétaire international) seraient l'expression la plus visible médiatiquement de cette *Transnational Civil Society*.

Loin des sentences galvaudées sur le pouvoir croissant des organisations transnationales, l'ouvrage de Chalmers Larose entend évaluer concrètement l'impact et l'audience de celles-ci. Quelle est l'influence précise des acteurs transnationaux sur la tenue des débats? Dans quelle mesure les acteurs transnationaux influencent-ils les décisions prises lors des sommets regroupant les décideurs mondiaux? Questions trop souvent négligées – ou traitées de manière incomplète – dans la littérature contemporaine, ce qui constituait un manque que l'ouvrage de Chalmers Larose vient combler.

En analysant les jeux de pouvoirs et les logiques d'interaction entre les entités nationales et transnationales, l'auteur démontre que sous les atours d'une société transnationale se dessine en réalité une influence constante des États et que les acteurs non étatiques eux-mêmes restent ancrés dans un référent national.

Pour appuyer ses propos, plusieurs analyses de cas sont proposées. Passant successivement en revue les mouvements d'opposition au libre-échange, les organisations syndicales et les mouvements environnementalistes, le livre brosse un panorama très instructif de la situation actuelle des mouvements transnationaux. Ces différents angles d'étude permettent d'ailleurs une approche globale et dénotent un souci appréciable d'exhaustivité.

Chalmers Larose montre que les contempteurs de la libéralisation des échanges sont confrontés à une série d'obstacles à la fois externes et endogènes. Stratégies d'actions collectives tournées vers l'espace national, hiatus entre les lois syndicales d'un pays à l'autre, différence de niveau de développement ou de structure du marché : autant d'éléments qui constituent des freins à l'action collective transnationale. Un