its underlying ideological complexes, which differed from earlier Classic political organization through its militarism and focus on multiethnic and more formalized political-economic structure. Toltec sculptures were both extracted from Tula and imitated, especially through reuse of themes. In Chapter 13, Eduardo Matos Moctezuma extends these explorations further back in time, noting that while specific features at Tenochtitlán were derived from Tula (such as skull racks, chacmools, and benches with warrior processions), more significant concepts regarding the layout of the city and structures serving as axis mundi came from Teotihuacan.

This volume will become a major source for all scholars interested in urbanism, as the chapters overall provide outstanding new data and new ways of thinking about Mesoamerican cities. The themes are usefully reiterated in a summary chapter by Davíd Carrasco. As is typical of Dumbarton Oaks publications, editorial and image quality are of the highest caliber; readers will wish for a more frequent publication schedule.

George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

JEFFREY P. BLOMSTER

NATION BUILDING & NATIONALISM

La Independencia: Los libros de la patria. By Antonio Annino and Rafael Rojas, with the collaboration of Francisco A. Eissa-Barroso. Mexico City: Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, 2008. Pp. 244. Notes. Bibliography.

The bicentenary of the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence (1810–1821) has resulted in a veritable frenzy of events and publications on the subject. From 2004 (if not before), scholars from all walks of life started mobilizing. Conferences, symposia, and colloquia were organized all over Mexico and beyond, apposite research projects were developed with noteworthy enthusiasm, and 2010 became a focal point—nay, feast—of reflection and frantic academic activity. As Mexican authorities geared up for what became a truly astounding calendar of elaborate patriotic festivities, the historiography of the Mexican War of Independence received more attention than ever before. Are we any wiser as a result? I would like to think we are.

What can be confidently stated is that over the last decade the War of Independence has been revisited, revised, and studied from an astounding variety of new (and not so new) perspectives. There have been constellations of studies on how each region's experience of the War differed, on the impact and legacy of the Bourbon reforms, and on the economic, social, and political grievances that provoked the revolutionary outbreak of 1810, addressing collective as well as individual motivations. We have gone from being persuaded by some historians that the insurgency was an incipient patriotic anticolonial movement to learning from others that it was a civil war. We have reflected over the extent to which it was a social revolution, whether the conflict was driven by a multitude of extremely local grievances, or whether it was just the Mexican expres-

sion of the transatlantic age of democratic revolutions—the Mexicans' response to the collapse of the Spanish monarchy following the 1808–1814 Napoleonic occupation of the Iberian peninsula. In the face of so many different and complex interpretations, this introductory overview of the historiography of the War of Independence from Annino and Rojas is a particularly welcome and helpful volume.

In *La Independencia*, with Annino looking after the nineteenth century in the first essay and Rojas taking care of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries in the second, we are offered a clear, concise, and balanced chronological review of the historiography of the Mexican War of Independence. The book charts the evolution of the historiography and its development, from the first accounts of the conflict to about 2008. While the two essays are mainly descriptive and driven by the sequence in which the different interpretations of the war were published, going (for example) from the precursors of creole patriotism (Francisco Javier Clavigero, Andrés Cavo, Servando Teresa de Mier) to the generation of independence (Carlos María de Bustamante, Lorenzo de Zavala, José María Luis Mora, Lucas Alamán) and on to the historians of the Reforma and beyond, Annino and Rojas find time and space to step back and reflect on the historiographical shifts that affect how we have come to interpret the texts here under discussion in more recent studies.

Annino interprets nineteenth-century historiography in terms of conflicting "patriotisms:" creole patriotism (captured in writings published on the eve of the War of Independence), patriotism at war (the interpretations penned by the Generation of Independence), notable or worthy patriotism (a post-Reforma movement led by "notables" or worthies), and nationalist patriotism (that of the late Porfirian historiography). Rojas divides the twentieth- and twenty-first century historiography in terms of the books of both the 1910 centenary and the 1921 centenary and the patriotic texts of the post-revolutionary period, paying special attention to the rise of *indigenista*, agrarian, and Marxist interpretations in the wake of the 1936–1939 Spanish Civil War. Attending to the professionalization of the discipline that came about in the second half of the twentieth century, Rojas takes a long view of the historiography of the last 50 or so years; toward the end of his study, he adopts a more thematic approach, highlighting the main revisionist shifts and entirely new studies on the War of Independence, especially those concerned with the reinterpretation of the eighteenth century and what he terms the "new political history" of the 1990s–2000s.

The result is a book that will become the first resource for any undergraduate or postgraduate about to embark on the study of the Mexican War of Independence. In addition to providing a clear, comprehensive critical overview of the relevant historiography, Annino and Rojas have given us a noteworthy bibliography of 100 pages, which is divided by century and category. Categories include works of propaganda, historical works, works by Mexican, Spanish, Spanish American, and foreign authors; dictionaries and universal histories, textbooks, memoirs, official accounts, and biographies; edited volumes, patriotic speeches, and military and political studies; and regional, economic, social, agrarian, and cultural studies. Prior to 2010, it would have been up to

the student to draw up his or her own bibliography. Thanks to Annino and Rojas's extremely useful volume, the student will already know what has been published on the War of Independence, when it was written, and, in broad terms, the angle it adopted.

University of St. Andrews
Scotland, United Kingdom
WILL FOWLER

A History of the Cuban Revolution. By Aviva Chomsky. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. Pp. xi, 224. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index.

It is difficult to understand why so few historians, as opposed to other social scientists and students of cultural manifestations, have systematically studied and written on the subject of the Cuban Revolution. Reflective of this reality is the dearth of single-volume histories from professional historians. Following the seminal 1977 work *History of the Cuban Revolution* by British historian Hugh Thomas, and *Cuba in Revolution* (2007) by Antoni Kapcia, Aviva Chomsky's *A History of the Cuban Revolution* is only the third history of the revolution written by a historian. This fact alone makes Chomsky's volume a welcome addition to the historiography of Cuba, and more broadly, Latin America. In the interest of full disclosure, I must say that for several years I have been working on my own history of the revolution, which is scheduled for publication in 2012.

Chomsky's book is concise (less than 200 pages of text) and highly readable, two characteristics favorable for course adoption. It is divided into eight chapters plus an introduction and a conclusion. While the book covers a variety of topics, it does not appear to have been meant to be a comprehensive history of the revolution, but rather an introduction to the topic for U.S. college students. The book structure follows the topical organization that characterizes most previous volumes on the subject. Following a historical background in Chapter 1, five chapters cover diverse topics such as U.S.-Cuba relations, art and culture, and emigration and internationalism over the three decades between 1959 and 1989. The next two chapters comprise the "Special Period" (1990–2000) and Cuba in the twenty-first century. While there are some advantages to a mostly topical approach, the drawbacks are a tendency toward repetition and generalizations applied over extensive periods of time.

Chomsky's history has several strengths. These include an evident mastery of the extensive body of work on the Cuban Revolution produced by U.S. scholars and island-based academics. Little space is made, however, for the works and perspectives of Cuban exiles. Another of the book's strengths is the approachable tone of its pedagogy: Chomsky explains a variety of concepts such as dependency and engages the reader in a discussion of various definitions of democracy. Readers with little or no background on Cuba and its revolution will easily navigate this volume.

The book, nonetheless, exhibits some serious problems. Most salient are its biased approach and overemphasis on U.S. responses to the revolution, including unnecessary