

Marine environmental history is a fairly young area of inquiry within environmental history, but it has developed rapidly since the 1990s. To my knowledge, this is the first book-length study of a major marine ecosystem in Latin America. But that is by no means its only contribution; it also offers an integrated analysis of both material and cultural changes. Like some of the industrial fishing companies that Wintersteen examines in detail, the book is “vertically integrated” methodologically, discussing a wide range of topics, from fish biology to fishing-boat technology to the development of global markets for fishmeal, and it shows how they were connected. But perhaps the book’s greatest contribution is to demonstrate how fundamental the Humboldt Current ecosystem was for the global consolidation of animal-based industrial farming, in turn an essential part of the Great Acceleration that took place after World War II.

Other fine insights appear throughout the book, for example, how populations of some of the most valuable species associated with the Humboldt Current, such as the Peruvian anchoveta (*Engraulis ringens*) and the Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), have shown remarkable resilience and the capacity to recover to some degree after the onslaught of industrial fishing. This seems to suggest a different story from those of the commercial fisheries off the coast of California and, especially, that of the Northwest Atlantic cod, whose collapse since the early 1990s seems irreversible.

Scholars today are probably generally more attuned to the unpredictability and dynamism of social and ecological systems than the authors of “The Limits to Growth” were. But while a book such as this one operates under the assumptions that nature is not static but changing, that human history is contingent, and that considerable uncertainty about human environmental relationships is inevitable, it illustrates the historical reality of environmental boundaries to human activity. It turns out that even the oceans are finite.

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PERU’S LAND REFORM

Land without Masters: Agrarian Reform and Political Change under Peru’s Military Government. By Anna Cant. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2021. Pp. 235. \$55.00 cloth.
 doi:10.1017/tam.2022.51

In early April 2021, shortly before the first round of the Peruvian general elections, the public television channel TV Perú pulled a programmed broadcast of the documentary *La revolución y la tierra*. A balanced account of the 1969 agrarian reform, featuring rich visual material and extensive interviews, *La revolución y la tierra* is the most watched documentary in Peruvian history. The director, Gonzalo Benavente, explained that the

channel had decided to postpone the broadcast until after the election. Immediately, prominent *opinólogos* weighed in to justify the decision—the documentary, they claimed, could unfairly influence the outcome of the election. In particular, they implied, it could bolster the campaign of Verónica Mendoza, a left-wing candidate who had polled well in the previous election in 2016, narrowly missing the second round, and who included in her manifesto a call for a second agrarian reform.

As this suggests, the 1969 agrarian reform remains very much at the heart of Peruvian politics. The unexpected victory, in the second round, of Pedro Castillo, a rural school teacher and *campesino* from Cajamarca who also promised a second agrarian reform and whose support came overwhelmingly from rural voters, confirms this. For this reason, Anna Cant's book could not be more timely.

Since the late 1960s, scholars have researched both the agrarian reforms and the Revolutionary Government of the Armed Forces (RGAF) that enacted them. Political scientists and anthropologists in particular, working at macro and micro levels respectively, have provided in-depth studies of the agrarian reform's design and its impact on Peru's agricultural sector and peasantry, as well as on the country's political culture. These sharpened our understanding of what is arguably the key initiative of Juan Velasco Alvarado's 'peculiar revolution.' Cant builds on this scholarship but adds a historian's approach, examining the reform's importance as an 'ideological project' (2).

As any historian interested in the 1969 agrarian reform soon realizes, and as Cant discusses in her introduction, there is no centralized repository of sources available. In the early 1970s, Humberto Rodríguez Pastor and others brought together the documentation of the expropriated haciendas and created the Archivo del Fuero Agrario. Unfortunately, although this key material is located at Peru's National Archive, it remains largely inaccessible to researchers. Cant gets around this by drawing on a wide range of sources, from interviews to visual culture. In contrast to accounts that focus on either policy-making at the center or local impacts of the reform, Cant moves easily between the two levels, and her book foregrounds a regional analysis that compares and contrasts the experience of the agrarian reform in Piura, Cuzco, and Tacna.

Three central chapters explore this regional history of the reform from the perspective of political mobilization, education policy, and public discourse (or political communication). Cant's regional approach does several things: first, it shows that the reform was not applied uniformly across the country. Its implementation reflected not only prior land tenure conditions at the regional level, but also the specific political dynamics that shaped the implementation. Second, the tendency to view the Velasco regime as 'revolution by decree,' as Dirk Kruijt termed it, does not really align with the extensive evidence that Cant provides of the regime's attempts to elicit consent for the agrarian reform. The regime used SINAMOS (its political mobilization agency), education reform policies, and political communication strategies to overcome resistance to the reform from the peasantry and national and local elites. Finally, this

approach underscores the agency of local actors, from individuals to collectives, in shaping the reception and ultimately the relative success of the reform in each region.

The final chapter explores the collective memory of the agrarian reform, building on the work of scholars like Enrique Mayer. Drawing on rich interview material and other sources, Cant shows how the highly polarized memories of the reform are repurposed and operationalized politically, as the postponement of *La revolución y la tierra* and debates around Castillo's electoral victory clearly demonstrate. In short, this book is an innovative and welcome study, as well as a timely one, of the 1969 agrarian reform that has much to teach us about the reform itself and its continuing importance to Peruvian politics and society.

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EMPLOYMENT, UNDEREMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CHILE

Fighting Unemployment in Twentieth-Century Chile. By Ángela Vergara. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021. Pp. 256. \$50.00 cloth.
 doi:10.1017/tam.2022.52

In 1925, when the director of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Albert Thomas, toured Latin America, he supposedly described Chile's new labor laws as the most perfect and comprehensive code on this subject. The laws offered workers legal protections against abusive employers and insurance provisions against death, disability, illness, and old age. But as Ángela Vergara points out, this most perfect code rarely delivered to workers as promised. More importantly, Vergara makes clear that the country particularly failed to develop a coherent employment policy that could address the issue of more central concern to Chilean workers themselves: the problem of job security caused by both cyclical and structural unemployment and underemployment.

Overall, the book tells the story of unemployment policy in Chile from the early twentieth century through the Pinochet dictatorship. It begins with the story of transnational policy discussions from 1900 to 1920 concerning unemployment, and describes how Chilean policymakers adapted these international views to local realities. It then moves on to describe how unemployment presented itself in Chile in the early decades of the twentieth century and documents some of the early, stillborn attempts to create policy solutions.

Three middle chapters on the Great Depression describe various small-bore programs established to address specific problems of employment brought on by the global crisis,