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Chiefdoms under Siege: Spain's Rule and Native Adaptation in the Southern Colombian Andes, 1535-1700. By Luis F. Calero. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997. xiv + 233 pp. Maps, tables, charts, appendixes, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. \$50.00 cloth.)

Luis Calero's *Chiefdom under Siege* examine indigenous resistance to Spanish rule in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Pasto, which today is part of the modern Department of Narino in Colombia. The Pasto region housed the sedentary Pastos, the Quillacingas, and the semi-nomadic Abads. According to Caler, these communities uniquely "adapted, exploited, and managed small ertical territories, emerging as self-sufficient, autonomous chiefdoms with a substantial degree of social and economic organization" (p. ix). The Pastos combined resistance with selective adaptation to Spanish intrusion, and it is noteworthy that today highland Narino continues to be one of the most "Indian" regions of Colombia.

Calero's work helps to fill an important void in our knowledge of Indian-Spanish peripheral areas of colonial America. His research in the Pasto region suggests that general patterns of culture inherent in core regions

were also present in non-core areas. Introductory chapters provide a comprehensive overview of the region and its inhabitants and address common historiographical themes which distinguished the northern from the central Andes, such as the prevalence of market economies, the inapplicability of John Murra's model of complementary resource management in a vertical archipelago, and commentary on the nature of chiefdoms themselves. For centuries, clans, chiefdoms, and larger polities developed strategies of effective adaptation in the Andean region, which were absorbed and modified by Inca and Spanish state expansion. The northern Andes is the region where *puna* (high, arid plain) blends into *páramo* (high, damp, treeless zone), and this ecological difference also marked the transition area of Inca infusion to the north.

This work has a number of noteworthy sections. Calero incorporates documents from a variety of primary sources in developing the study, and he includes tables, charts, and maps to complement information presented in the text (although not pertinent to the study, the *camino real* map [p. 92] reflects an inaccuracy, suggesting an overland route between Antioquia and the north coast). Documents are utilized to discuss the evolution of *encomienda*, religious orders, labor forces, and land issues. The discussion of the impact of disease and population decline is comprehensive and especially well articulated, considering the complexity of these issues. Calero's use of *visita* records provides valuable comparative analysis over time. Likewise, his use of litigation records and documentation of *cabildo* activity illustrates how the legal and governmental systems functioned at the local level. Clearly, the fringe areas were just as dynamic as core areas.

In chapters on land and ecology, the author discusses the impact that the introduction of European crops and animals had on traditional indigenous agricultural practices. Calero notes that "twenty years after the conquest, the landscape of the southern Colombian Andes had undergone a tremendous transformation" (p. 101). Environmental changes were reflected in rapidly changing land tenure patterns and the introduction of a variety of new crops and animals by the Spanish, as Calero so vividly describes. Despite some recent attention to the impact of food production on Indian adaptation, historians have, for the most part, overlooked the potential contribution that environmental history offers as a focal point to examine the development of sustainable agriculture. Calero's discussion of ecological change would provide a starting point for a more intensive examination of this issue due to the uniqueness of the northern Andean environment.

It is surprising that gender issues are only minimally addressed in the book. Apart from leadership roles, women form an integral part of culture and society, and studies of resistance and adaptation are enhanced by their inclusion. Nevertheless, *Chiefdoms under Siege* is a valuable contribution to the historiography of Spanish America. As an examination of the

generally neglected peripheral area, it extends our knowledge of life on the fringe, and in so doing augments our understanding of central areas as well. If Pastos were in fact typical of peripheral areas in general, then it is a certainty that they were not stagnant areas but very dynamic, both socially and culturally. This study supports the concept that Spanish interaction with Indians was a complex process, whether the milieu was periphery or core.

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