

## BOOK REVIEWS

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Jeffrey L. Gould and Aldo Santiago. *To Rise in Darkness: Revolution, Repression, and Memory in El Salvador, 1920-1932*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2008. Pp. 400. Paper \$24.95.

Jeffery L. Gould, Professor of History at Indiana University, and Aldo Lauria-Santiago, Professor of History at Rutgers University, explain the origins of El Salvador's twelve-year-long civil war between indigenous people, *ladinos* (non-Indian rural workers), and the landed elite, which culminated in *la Matanza* [the massacre] of 1932. The *Matanza* of 1932 was one of the worst cases of state repression in Latin America in the twentieth century, and an important time in Salvadorian history that was followed by decades of military dictatorship. Gould and Santiago offer a new analysis of the groups involved in planning and executing the peasant uprising and argue that the rural population was much more heterogeneous than previously assumed.

The book is chronologically organized from the 1920s to 1932 and based on over two hundred interviews with survivors and their descendants, along with a myriad of documentary sources from archives in El Salvador, Lon-

don, and Moscow. As an oral history with a bottom up approach, Gould and Santiago aim to capture the voices of the indigenous people. For example, Manuel Mojica, brother of the leader of one of the communist organizations, recalls his brother. Many of archival documents consist of correspondence between communist party leaders in the Soviet Union and El Salvador. While the USSR always expressed support to Salvadorian party leaders in these letters, the Soviets refused requests for money and guns when Salvadorian organizations became more radical. El Salvador experienced an economic boom in the 1920s. Plantation owners were able to accumulate tremendous amounts of land. This new landed elite began exploiting the indigenous with long work hours, even charging rent for living on the land, which had been designated as communal lands for the them. The indigenous people began organizing, initially without any overt Marxist or Communist aims. Rural workers would just strike for better wages or working hours. However, as the state became more repressive, these labor organizations became more radical. In January 1932 the indigenous people rose up in arms, and since many of the men did not have guns, they used machetes and other work tools to take over towns and villages in western El Salvador. Elsewhere throughout the country many plantations were taken over by peasants as well. The next day the government sent troops to the countryside to defeat the insurgency. The government moved against the rest of the indigenous population and some 40,000 indigenous persons were massacred by the military on the orders of the government. Other scholars have written on the subject, but Gould and Santiago's study is especially detailed, and addresses aspects other studies do not. For example, their analysis of the none-elite mestizo relations with the indigenous offers new insights.

The interviews in the book strengthen the book's argument and really assist the reader in picturing how the

events unfolded. Gould and Santiago are to be commended for locating two of the survivors and scores of the descendants of the *Matanza*. One may question the validity of memories being retold decades after the fact. Nevertheless, scholars as well as undergraduate and graduate students interested in Latin American History, and Latin American politics will enjoy this insightful book. The memory of this event remains important not just for its documentation, but for uncovering El Salvador's revolutionary history, and revealing it as a cradle of progressive thinking.

David Avalos

Neil Pemberton and Michael Worboys, *Mad Dogs and Englishmen: Rabies in Britain, 1830-2000*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, 2007. Pp. 247, Hardcover, \$49.95

Convulsing, hallucinating, howling, and suffering unimaginable thirst; this horrific image of the final hours of a rabies victim has been seared into the British imagination. Despite the rarity of actual outbreaks, Michael Worboys, Director of the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Manchester, and Neil Pemberton, a Research Associate at the same institution, reveal the massive presence of rabies in the British public mind. Drawing on Victorian medical journals, literature, legislative debates, and newspaper accounts, Pemberton and Worboys weave an engrossing narrative that charts the changing approaches to rabies in British society from the early nineteenth to the end of the twentieth centuries. The authors examine how successive definitions of the disease, and attempts to eradicate it, were complicated by gender, class, notions of expertise, and the evolution of pet ownership.

The study begins with an outbreak of rabies in the 1830s, noting that efforts to control the disease were ham-