effective in using journal entries and letters to describe the context of this vital period. Hamilton envisioned prosperity through trade and centralized regulation, while Jefferson wanted a government that prioritized the agrarian economy. These two ideologies were at odds and presented two fundamentally different visions for this country. However, the ideological gulf between the two men was bridged momentarily when Hamilton secured Jefferson’s presidency in 1800 over their mutual enemy Aaron Burr.

Ferling offers fascinating insights into the famous rivalry between Hamilton and Jefferson. Students and historians interested in the two men and the era they helped to shape will enjoy this book.

*Jesse Cantu*


Paul Almeida, a professor at the University of California, Merced, examines popular protests in El Salvador from 1925 to 2005, and identifies key social movements that sought change through protests by citizens with limited access to resources. Almeida initially uses the political process model to argue that social movements are more effective in “stable democracies.” He then modifies the model when examining El Salvador’s unstable and transitioning government by focusing on liberalization, intimidation, and globalization. Almeida argues that the 1932 revolt was a response to the government’s reversal of tolerating organized assembly and mobilization. This repression initiated social movements and showed that denying institutional access can lead to the formation of civic organization against a repressive state. From that point, Almeida analyzes social movements over time rather than at specific moments.

Almeida focuses on three elements that eventually lead to social discontent, awareness, and then action. He ascribes the reversal of liberalization to the “global periphery” of state-attributed economic problems, erosion of rights, and state repression (22). Economic troubles hit El Salvador’s coffee plantations by late 1931. Price increases, government regulations, and a move toward privatization of public sectors affected all Salvadorians. Peasants and wageworkers assembled to protest working and living conditions. At this time the government took away voting rights, and prohibited public assembly as well as other forms of public political participation. A military take over of the elected government between 1931-1979 as well as strikes
on coffee plantations led to protests that turned into outright rebellion. Armed with little more than machetes and agricultural tools, an estimated eight thousand to thirty thousand peasants and workers were killed in areas like Ahuachapán, La Libertad, and Sonsonate. El Salvador’s civil war, starting in 1980, vindicated state sponsored mass killings from 1980 to 1983. This provoked large-scale movements by students, peasants, and wageworkers in rural as well as urban areas. These are three examples of economic problems, erosion of rights, and state repression that support Almeida’s argument of social mobilization during nondemocratic and authoritarian rule.

Atrocities carried out by the military and affirmed by the state, lead to what Almeida identifies as mobilization by globalization, or “a social conflict over a wide range of government austerity policies connected to global integration” (176). While the government attempted to extract itself from the crisis, it held on to the neoliberal ideology but translated it into social and civil change. The Salvadorian government was unable to understand the connection between people’s civil rights and globalization. Salvadorians rebellion eventually led to fair wages, non-government regulated health care, establishing a teachers union, and working towards fair and competitive democratic elections. These accomplishments were the result of Salvadorian mobilization, stemming from their ability to unify in the face of adversity. This further demonstrates the impact of popular mobilization when power is claimed by the people.

Almeida’s work makes clear the connections between civil discontent and organizational reform by citizens. His ability to gain access to a wide variety of sources from top government officials and most importantly, interviews with revolutionary reformists allows Almeida to illustrate El Salvador’s struggle from different sides. His work is an important contribution to the historiography of Latin America that will help historians understand social movements in a country with a nondemocratic government.

Joshua Crespo


Samuel Truett’s history of the Arizona-Sonora borderlands is a timely addition to our understanding of the U.S.-Mexico border region, since it divides the two nations, and, as logic goes, two peoples. Truett, a professor at the University of New Mexico, seeks to “reconstitute the