

scholarly and bibliographic richness, Sarget's owing to its readable style and socioeconomic focus.

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### **International and Comparative**

*The Birth of the Penitentiary in Latin America: Essays on Criminology, Prison Reform, and Social Control, 1830–1940.* Edited by RICARDO SALVATORE and CARLOS AGUIRRE.

Austin: University of Texas Press, 1996. Photographs. Illustrations. Notes.

Bibliography. Index. xxi, 279 pp. Cloth, \$40.00. Paper, \$14.95.

This is a welcome volume that brings a variety of approaches to understudied penitentiary and criminological institutions, theories, and practices in Mexico, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Costa Rica. These authors examine why penitentiaries fascinated state builders, who expended prodigious resources to construct these monuments of industrial discipline amid agro-export economies. For reformers, despite the precarious enforcement of discipline within prisons and their limited capacity, penitentiaries were touchstones of civilization that distinguished fledgling central states from colonial and caudillo predecessors and strengthened their often tenuous legitimacy. As coercive labor forms gave way to market-oriented labor relations, the penitentiary seemed a “scientific” and humanitarian alternative to enforce social discipline while recycling a nation’s refractory elements.

This collection’s strength lies in its emphasis on the differing interpretations of European and North American criminological and penitentiary models. Local conditions shaped the way state builders selected and used these ideas. Enlightenment ideals on the perfectibility of individuals and institutions clashed with more venerable conceptions of natural, social, gender, and racial hierarchies that were “scientifically” reinforced in the late 1800s by criminological theories and social Darwinism. As Carlos Aguirre shows, this clash undermined the implementation of everyday penitentiary discipline in Lima. Similarly, María Soledad Zárate Campos offers an intriguing analysis of gender and discipline in Chile’s Correctional House for women. But other essays largely overlook the potential for a gendered analysis of masculinity in an institution dominated, inhabited, and dedicated to reforming mostly wayward “men” into ideal citizens.

After learning much about Latin America’s penitentiary projects, I desired to know more about the links between the limited capacity of modern penitentiaries and more traditional jails and penal colonies. Robert Buffington and Steven Palmer come closest to offering a broader vision of this relationship in their analysis of Mexico and Costa Rica. Also, one senses the need for a more rigorous consideration of the timing and depth of penitentiary reforms in relation to other disciplining institutions: schools, orphanages, poorhouses, asylums, police, military service, etc. Penitentiary reforms

were linked to a web of institutions and the allocation of resources indicates much about state builders' concerns and the potential they perceived in their populace. Ricardo Salvatore's comparison of criminological theory and practice in Argentina and Brazil is the most revealing in teasing out these issues in relation to race and labor markets. Still, interesting questions remain, such as whether the Argentine state's emphasis on public education or the lack of a standing military in Costa Rica facilitated and encouraged the development of penitentiaries. Clearly such a comparison is a monumental task beyond the grasp of any one collection of essays. The merit of this well-researched collection is that it paves the way for just such an ambitious scholarly agenda through its multi-dimensional approach to criminology and penitentiary subjects.

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*Human Resources and the Adjustment Process.*

Edited by RICARDO PAREDES and LUIS A. RIVEROS. Center for Research in Applied Economics, book 10. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995. Graphs. Tables. Figures. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliographies. Index. 203 pp. Paper, \$18.50.

This book examines processes of economic adjustment and the characteristics of human resources and human resource training in Latin America. It focuses on the experiences of Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Uruguay during the 1980s. One chapter is devoted to each of these countries; an introductory chapter summarizes the results of the research and highlights the similarities and differences between the countries studied.

In a world of rapid technological change and increasing economic globalization, structural adjustment will no longer be limited to the transition from a relatively closed to a substantially more open economy. More than ever before, structural adjustment will become an integral part of economic growth and development. Thus it is important to arrive at a better understanding of the human resource requirements that will minimize the social costs of this adjustment process and maximize its economic benefits. This book is a step in that direction. The strength of *Human Resources and the Adjustment Process* lies in its rich descriptive detail of existing human resource programs in the four countries studied and the theoretical reflections it offers about the characteristics of those human resource programs that are best equipped to respond to the ongoing need for adjustment. The main weakness of the book is a lack of detailed empirical analysis that would demonstrate in the context of specific countries the particular nexus that exists between the nature of the structural adjustment process, the skills required, and the institutional training structure most conducive to teaching these skills.

The absence of country-specific details on the links between adjustment and human resource development is to a large extent due to the fact that three of the four countries did not experience major structural change during the 1980s. Therefore, one has to wonder about the original choice of countries. Chile is the one country whose economy actually underwent substantial structural change, primarily in the 1970s.