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On the Great Landholdings of Mexico: The Sanchez Navarros

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partially developed, semi-advanced and advanced. In their judgment the Philippines belongs in the semi-advanced class. The case studies do much to put flesh and features on these gaunt divisions.

Formal schooling is only one of the ways by which men and women are educated to become more productive, not only technically and economically but also in the unbounded scope of their human potential: artistic, scientific, religious and moral. The incentives at work are also important—the rewards which allure a society's better talents into doing what is needed for economic development. Social and cultural values also count. For example, the following paragraph has been written about Argentina:

Historically there has been a gap between the Argentine professional and Argentine industry. The professional was generally a person from a well-to-do family who had graduated from the university, a highly respected attainment. The top managers of industry were generally not university graduates, but businessmen running their own firms. Within this cultural milieu, persons in industry were considered to be in a lower social class, and the professional considered it beneath his status to work in industry as an employee of persons who were not his social and cultural equal.

Since a highly developed industrial society requires a full range of occupations from the highest to the lowest in prestige, strong feelings about the social indignity of being a laboring man impede progress.

The book affords the reader stimulating comparisons and contrasts between what goes on in the Philippines and in the countries studied: whether young people educated abroad tend to return to work at home; whether the system of higher education is large and varied enough to leave room for institutions of excellence—Harvards and Yales; whether there exists a class of unemployed, discontented intellectuals; whether lawyers be in short supply, as in Puerto Rico; to what degree people and all else are concentrated in one big city; what economic opportunities are open to women; how cordial is the reception of foreign investors.

The topic of this book is of prime importance today.

MICHAEL MCPHELIN

ON THE GREAT LANDHOLDINGS OF MEXICO

THE SANCHEZ NAVARROS: A Socio-Economic Study of a Coahuil-
lan Latifundio 1846-1853. By Charles H. Harris III. Chicago:
Loyola University Press, 1964. vii, 127 pp.

From the papers of the Sánchez Navarro family, now in the archives of the University of Texas, Charles H. Harris III has made a documented study of the last years of the great landholding or latifundio of that family in the northern part of Mexico, in what is now

the state of Coahuila. As the author points out, that latifundio was formed in the nineteenth century with the lands of the Sánchez Navarro and of the descendants of Don Francisco de Urdiñola, the Marquis of Aguayo. The two great landholdings had been joined into one by Don Carlos Sánchez Navarro in 1840; the latifundio then covered an area of more than 100,000 square kilometers, the largest latifundio in Mexico. The central administration of that small 'kingdom' was in the Hacienda de Patos in its southern portion where the 'Casa Grande' of the Sánchez Navarro was located.

Unfortunately, the author does not go into comparisons between this latifundio and others in Mexico such as the joined holdings of Don Manuel Romero de Terreros, Conde Duque de Regla. For that we have to go to the brilliant book of Francois Chevalier, *La Formation des Grands Domaines au Mexique* (Paris, 1952 and Mexico, 1956). The comparison would show the different kinds of latifundios that had been formed in Mexico, from those of mining origin to the ones in the unpopulated areas in the north. For instance, in the latifundio of 'La Gavia' west of Mexico City, with only 17,000 square kilometers, there lived in 1760 over forty-thousand people, between *peons* properly said, tenants and bordering villages that made a living in the lands of the latifundio. In the Sánchez Navarro latifundio in the north, more than five times as large, only one thousand people had lived at the most.

The author begins his book with the Mexican-American War of 1847. That war ended with the defeat of Mexico and the taking by the United States of more than half the territory of the southern republic. As a result, the lands of the Sánchez Navarro became practically border land between Texas and Mexico. The book does not go further than the expropriation of the latifundio after the French intervention and the ephemeral empire of Maximilian. The Sánchez Navarro had been staunch supporters of the emperor and, when President Juarez destroyed the empire and gave new life to the republican government, the Sánchez Navarros were expropriated. The claims of the family went on in the courts until 1874, when they were finally dismissed.

The most interesting chapters of this small volume are those that deal with the administration and financing of the enormous holding. The principal wealth consisted of cattle, sheep and goats. The big markets were the City of Mexico far to the south and the American border in the north. Another money-making product was mules and horses for the armies. The amounts recorded are enormous. In 1848, for example, the Sánchez Navarro had 147,500 head of sheep. But Indian attacks took their toll in human lives and cattle. The Indians had been thrown south from the United States across the Rio Grande and roamed as far south as Saltillo and Durango. They were the Apaches and the Comanches. Mr. Harris' description of the sending

of cattle to San Luis Potosi and Mexico City makes a very interesting and enlightening chapter on travel in those times.

In his bibliography, Mr. Harris mentions many a book about the period and about the history of land tenure in Mexico, and several about the war between the United States and Mexico in 1847. It is, however, quite extraordinary that one of the most enlightening about that war, written by an officer in the Mexican army, none other than a Sánchez Navarro, is not included. *La Guerra de Texas* was published by a direct descendant of the Sánchez Navarros, Don Carlos Sánchez Navarro, Marqués de Monte Hermoso, who died recently and was one of the most cultured historians of modern Mexico. A curious study that should be undertaken in connection with such a work as Mr. Harris' book would be a history of the families that used to own the latifundio of Mexico. What became of them after the breaking up of the great landholdings, that opened the doors of progress to Mexico? Many of them, we might notice, changed their wealth in land for wealth in culture. A typical case of that change was Carlos Sánchez Navarro, grandson of Don Carlos Sánchez Navarro, the last owner of the immense latifundio of Patos.

RAFAEL BERNAL

ENGLISH LIFE SINCE 1780: A GLIMPSE

SOCIETY AND POLITICS IN ENGLAND: 1780-1960. A Selection of Readings and Comments. Edited by J. F. C. Harrison. New York: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1965. xiv, 482 pp.

This book is a collection of 110 readings from contemporary writers (contemporary, that is, with the events they describe) illustrating the development of the political, economic and social life of England in the last 200 years. It is intended primarily for students, to be read in conjunction with a standard historical work; and the editor stresses that the extracts "are not to be considered substitutes for but rather introductions to the original works." But the very existence of this book is a temptation not to make the greater effort to master the originals; and as such, it could be dangerous to anyone making a serious detailed study of the period. But to the more cursory student of English history, or to the ordinary reader with some knowledge of the events of the period, this book can give a vivid and often entertaining picture of the way English life has changed since 1780.

The extracts have been purposely selected to concentrate on domestic issues. External trade, empire-building, wars, and foreign