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Joseph, Gilbert M. and Mark D. Szuchman, eds. *I Saw the City Invincible: Urban Portraits of Latin America*. Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources, 1996. pp. xiii, 213. Preface, acknowledgements, suggested readings. \$45.00 (cloth)

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tural development, that during the course of the twentieth century, Carnegie libraries became a natural and almost invisible part of the social and physical landscape.

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Latin America's history, culture and society is delineated by its urban centres. Both during pre-Colombian times and after European colonization, cities and towns in Latin America have served as benchmarks in the historical development of the region. The great empires of the Inca and Aztecs radiated out of highly developed urban centres and the European conquerors dotted their empire with recreations of the towns and cities they grew up in. Despite the importance of cities in the history of the region, much of the existing literature on the urban centres of Latin America tends to be antiquarian in nature and has not kept up with recent trends in historical writing. For this reason, *I Saw the City Invincible* and *Santiago de Guatemala* offer something new to students of Latin American history and society.

The editors of *I Saw the City Invincible* present a chronological survey of the city in Latin America. Mark Szuchman introduces the book with a chapter outlining the history of the city in Latin America. He argues that the vision of the city, both to its inhabitants and to historians, has changed over the last five hundred years. The chapters in the book reflect the changes by offering views of the Latin American city from a variety of angles. The study focuses on Latin America's largest cities and attempts to provide different perspectives on everyday life in these centres. From colonial accounts to modern descriptions of cities past and present, the collection makes a valuable contribution to the field of urban history in Latin America.

Santiago de Guatemala is a monograph on the demographic and social history of the most important urban centre in colonial Central America. The city was founded by Spanish conquerors who settled in the heart of indigenous Guatemala. Christopher H. Lutz traces the evolution of Santiago as a multiethnic community where Africans, Indigenous peoples and Europeans intermingled. The author uses parish and tributary records to examine marriage patterns in order to demonstrate the growth

of the ladinos as an intermediate group that came to dominate Guatemalan society. The author's preoccupation is with the course of events that led to the rise of ladino society.

Lutz sees in *Santiago de Guatemala* a history of the entire region. For the author the trajectory is clear, like the other important urban centres of Central America, the development of the city was a threat to indigenous society. Unlike other centres, Santiago de Guatemala's transformation was "delayed and probably averted" by natural disaster. The author concludes that indigenous Guatemala was therefore preserved because colonial officials moved their capital to the site of present day Guatemala City.

Both books illustrate the importance of urban centres in the history, culture and society of Latin America. *Santiago de Guatemala* and *I Saw the City Invincible* are well worth the purchase price and are suitable for classroom use. *Santiago de Guatemala* can be used at the undergraduate level, while *I Saw the City Invincible* is more suited to advanced seminars where students have some appreciation for Latin American history and society.

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Garc-a, Mar-a Cristina. *Havana USA: Cuban Exiles and Cuban Americans in South Florida, 1959-1994*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996. Pages ix, 279, preface, bibliography, index.

Havana USA is the best study to date of the Cuban exile community in the United States. Mar-a Cristina Garc-a offers an analysis which does not focus on the anti-Castroism that makes much of the existing literature on the subject so tedious. Garc-a does not seek to merely criticize the Cuban Revolution and Fidel Castro, nor does she write as though more than three decades of residence in the United States have not had an effect on the aspirations and orientation of Cuban exile community in South Florida. On the contrary, the author provides a clear overview of Cuban immigration to the United States since 1959 and a discussion of the impact of exile on those who now live in Florida.

The book is divided into two parts which can be defined as cause and effect. The first section is on immigration and is an examination of the different waves of Cuban exiles. The author discusses the conditions of Cuban immigration to the United States since 1959. Garc-a argues that the people who arrived in the United States from Cuba between 1959 and 1973 were political and not economic exiles. They were, therefore, distinct from those who arrived in during the Mariel Boatlift of 1980 when Fidel Castro allowed almost 125,000 people to leave Cuba and