facto adoptees of lower-class families. This section deftly uses records from the Santiago’s Casa de Huérfanos, which took in an enormous amount of abandoned children—some 50,000—between 1850 and 1929.

*Children of Fate* is an exemplary contribution to the social, cultural, and legal history of Chile and Latin America. The product of meticulous work in an array of archives, from local to national, the book not only provides a top-down view of the liberal state and legal reforms that expanded the rights of certain individuals and denied them to others, but brings to life the challenges and hardships that kinless children faced. Milanich’s book is also quite moving, especially from this historian’s perspective, for in me it cements a profound appreciation for an honorable Chilean gentleman who, despite being legally empowered to walk away from his young daughter, did not. That girl went on to live a long and good life; she was the deeply loving woman with whom I would fold the laundry and occasionally come across a *huacho*.

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*Holiday in Mexico* is a welcome and valuable addition to tourism studies and Mexican cultural history. In Mexico as elsewhere, tourism figures as a power-laden site of interaction between local, national, and international actors; the fourteen essays that make up this collection examine that site from a variety of angles. Taken together they provide a provocative set of tools for thinking about the construction of social, economic, and political power in Mexico more generally.

The editors have arranged the essays chronologically, identifying three key periods: the 1840s to the Mexican Revolution, the 1920s to the 1960s, and the 1960s to the present. This periodization, reflecting, as it does, the rise and decline of the hegemony of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), foregrounds one of the dominant themes of the collection: the shifting relationships between state actors and private investors. The volume’s great strength, however, lies in its topical range. By documenting the history of diverse sites, the authors reveal the variability of discourses and practices related to tourism in terms of what is being “sold,” and to what extent that “thing” can be abstracted from its local context. The essays contrast several different models of tourism development: the tourism *noir* of Tijuana (Eric Schantz); the pyramids-and-martinis tourism
of Mexico City and Teotihuacán (Christina Bueno); and the sun-and-sand (and
martinis) tourism of Acapulco (Andrew Sackett), Cancún (M. Bianet Castella-
nos), and Los Cabos (Alex Saragoza). Each type of development depended on
a unique configuration of interactions (legal, illegal, and quasi-legal) between
the agents of the Mexican state, and national and international investors. Each
engaged locals, displacing some and recruiting others, and each motivated dif-
f erent levels of resistance, engagement, and indifference on their part.

Several essays attend to Mexico’s complex and ambivalent relationship with
the United States and its impact on tourism development. Andrea Boardman, Dina
Berger, and Lisa Pinley Covert show relatively direct connections between U.S.
diplomatic and military maneuvers and the development of Mexican tourist sites.
Berger chronicles the efforts of the State Department in promoting U.S. tourism
to Mexico as an arm of the Good Neighbor Policy, while Pinley Covert chronicles
the effects of the G.I. Bill on the transformation of San Miguel de Allende from
a sleepy colonial outpost into the expatriate haven that it is today. Boardman,
however, links tourism development to more bellicose projects, tracing the roots
of Porfrian infrastructural projects to the sightseeing itineraries of the North
American occupying forces in the aftermath of the Mexican-American War.

While most of the essays focus on the development of specific locations as
destinations meant to attract foreign tourists, some address other phenomena.
Andrew Grant Wood explores the history of the Veracruz Carnival as a site of
national and regional tourism. Jeff Pilcher’s piece on gastronomic tourism and
Mary K. Coffey’s account of the relationship between the cultural policies of
the neo-liberal state and the display and marketing of folk art focus on how the
objects of cultural consumption are alienated from their sites of production.
The final essay by travel writer Barbara Kastelstein draws together many of the
central concerns of the collection, as she contrasts the decadence of Acapulco,
the paradoxical internationalism of Oaxaca City, and the shabby indifference
of the local tourist attraction of Amecameca. Individually and collectively, the
essays provide a rich resource for thinking about tourism as a confluence of
political, economic, and cultural flows.

Heather Levi

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KURT WEWLAND, RAÚL L. MADRID, and WENDY HUNTER (eds.): Left-
ist Governments in Latin America: Successes and Shortcomings. Cambridge

Entre 2010 y 2011, varios libros publicados en los Estados Unidos de América
se han ocupado de organizar y difundir el estado actual del debate académico