Consuelo Naranjo Orovio


ISBN (complete series) 978-84-00-08790-6.

When the twentieth century was coming to an end, Prof. Elena Hernández-Sandoica asked a number of colleagues to compile a collection of texts for a series she was directing at the time: “History of Spain, 3rd millennium”. I was invited to participate with a book that would be entitled _The Spanish Americas (1763–1898): Culture and Daily Life_. In the end this book was the result of close collaboration between Prof. Manuel Hernández González and me. He took care of the section on continental Spanish America while I was responsible for the chapters on the Spanish Caribbean during the crucial period that saw the birth of the Antillean and Spanish contemporaneity and that ended in that key year of 1898. This book saw the light in 2000 as planned. It was not an easy task. Not because of its inherent difficulties—all works have them, especially those on sections of History which deal with specific matters and involve a great deal of analyses and complexity, and even more so when the text is intended as an invitation to reflection, a new proposal of lines of work, and a training tool for students. It was difficult because of a worrying lack of adequate material needed for the completion of certain chapters: there was an absolute absence of sources about certain insular territories which were central to this work such as Puerto Rico or the Dominican Republic. There were subjects on which there was virtually nothing written at all; and there was not enough material of a satisfactory quantity or quality on other subjects. I am very happy to corroborate that this is no longer an issue.

More recently, under the expert supervision by Prof. Consuelo Naranjo Orovio a series of books have been published in the past few years which have become essential in the History of the Spanish Antilles in Spanish. The third volume of the series, a book on the non-Spanish Caribbean deserves special mention as it rounds up an outstanding collection destined to become the most up-to-date and comprehensive of all which deals with the whole of the
Caribbean in Spanish. These five volumes are, no doubt, the most relevant work and the greatest scientific effort undertaken by a research team published in the language of Cervantes during recent times as it deals with that nuclear and germinal area in which two worlds met.

These five volumes span over a frantic five-year period of institutional and private collaborative publishing effort from 2009 to 2014. A number of renowned institutions co-ordinated by Doce Calles Publishing House have contributed to the Antilia Collection. Editorial csic; Fernand Braudel Center for the Study of Economies, Historical Systems and Civilisations at Binghamton University; Oficina del Historiador de Puerto Rico, Prince of Asturias Chair in Spanish Culture and Civilisation at Tufts University; Caribbean and Latin/o American Studies, University at Buffalo; the State University of New York; Fundación Instituto de Historia Social, Academia Dominicana de la Historia; Centro de Investigaciones Históricas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico; Fundación Vueltabajo. This is a highly advisable way to cut costs and make the most of the existing distribution channels. Here follows a list of the five books of this series:


This combined effort has resulted in a well-presented work covering the period of time that begins when the Descubrimiento and continues up to today. And, in addition to the monographic analyses conducted on the three major Antilles, Cuba, República Dominicana and Puerto Rico, this series boasts a groundbreaking major work on the “Antillas no hispanas”, that is, the territories that became part of the British, French or Dutch empires as part of their attempts to undermine the commercial monopoly established by Spain over the Spanish America.

A major asset to this series is its transversal and multidisciplinary nature as seen in the variety of subjects and the various different approaches as the result of a combination of efforts displayed by the various specialists. The result is richly filled with colours, a quest for innovative solutions to issues