

Ph.D. Preliminary Examinations
Field: Latin American History
April 1999

I. Obligatory:

Recent scholarship has considerably changed prevailing notions about how indigenous peoples and their customs, religions, and institutions fared under Spanish colonial rule, and how indigenous peoples related to the hispanic elites. Discuss major facets of these new perceptions (since mid-1980s) for Mexico and the central Andes during the colonial era. Be sure to consider regional variations and shifts over time from the sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries. How would you account for the changes in the "ethnohistorical" literature on Mexico and the Andes since the 1960s?

II. Answer THREE of the following five questions:

a. From the recent history of modern Chile by Collier and Slater, one gets the impression that Chile is a society in which a progressive elite renews the rather rigid class system every generation or two by a "call to order," in which protesting elements are shot by the army or carabineros. In fact, are ruling groups particularly innovative and progressive, and is state violence more extensive or frequently used by Chilean elites than by elites in Brazil, Colombia, or Argentina? Choose one of the three countries to compare to Chile, treating these issues in the period c. 1830 to the present.

b. It has been claimed with increasing insistence over the past ten years or so that neglect of gender as a fundamental category of analysis seriously distorts perceptions of Latin American history. Exemplify and substantiate this claim, using two different themes, such as labor history, history of nation-state formation, or the histories of black or indigenous resistance to hispanic domination (you may choose other themes). What, if any, problems (conceptual or methodological) do you see in "genderizing" such themes of Latin American history?

c. If a student of the Latin American political economy in 1960 were suddenly to be transported to the end of the century, she would be amazed at the degree to which the neoliberal model had replaced state-induced development efforts. How does one account for this enormous shift over four decades? Include both economic and political factors as well as national and international elements in your answer, and draw examples from at least three countries.

d. The literary critic Paulo Salles Gomes has remarked on Brazilian intellectuals' "creative lack of competence in copying" European ideas. Roberto Schwarz has

generalized the notion to include all Latin America. Among the following Latin American ideas, describe and critique any two. In this process, assess the degree to which they were original, and to what extent they were derivative of European thought: (19th-century) liberalism in Latin America, (economic) structuralism, dependency theory, indigenismo, Liberation Theology, and Che Guevara's theory of guerrilla warfare.

e. Environmental history promises to be a major subfield of Latin American history in the next twenty years. If we think of Warren Dean's *With Broadax and Firebrand* as a major achievement of the 1990s, is this the beginning of environmental history? In what ways is it traceable to Alfred Crosby, Francois Chevalier, or even Woodrow Borah, Sherburne Cook, and Leslie Byrd Simpson? End your answer with a discussion of Dean and other environment-related histories (in part or whole) of recent years.

