

This book is most effective in its analysis of *campesino* labor organizers, landowners, and state actors. Other groups—notably women and Indigenous peoples—appear here in clearly bounded paragraphs that feel somewhat peripheral to the book’s main themes. The experiences of women and Indigenous people are not as thoroughly developed as those of other actors, nor are these sections consistently integrated into the central argument. However, this may be unavoidable, and it is certainly understandable, in light of the source material available for this study. Readers seeking in-depth analysis of gender or indigeneity in southern Chile will not find it here. Their inclusion was clearly not the author’s intention for this study, and bringing those experiences into the analysis is perhaps a point of departure for future researchers.

In sum, this is an outstanding contribution to scholarship on modern Chilean history. This book is essential reading for serious students of Latin American history and international labor history, and it invites productive debate on central frameworks of Chilean history as well as transnationally relevant questions about the power of memory and mindset in shaping historical understanding.

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## US-MEXICO RELATIONS AND FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

*The Dread Plague and the Cow Killers: The Politics of Animal Disease in Mexico and the World.* By Thomas Rath. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022. Pp. 248. \$39.99 cloth; \$32.00 e-book.  
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In this carefully researched monograph about the epizootic of foot-and-mouth disease (*fiebre aftosa*) in Mexico from the late 1940s to the mid-1950s, Thomas Rath offers a comprehensive approach that connects topics related to environmental history, the history of science, developmentalism, multilateralism, state-making, national security, and political violence in the context of postrevolutionary Mexico and the Cold War era. Rath also offers the most detailed depiction of the impact of the epizootic at the regional level, bringing up examples of communities from different Mexican states. Rath skillfully interweaves these local stories with the broader history of the US-Mexico relations during the period, characterized by a combination of negotiation and cooperation, the pursuit of hidden agendas on both sides, and resistance or selective compliance on the Mexican side.

According to Rath, the *aftosa* campaign was unprecedented in scale, as it absorbed over “half of US economic aid to Latin America between 1947 and 1951. . . involving thousands of veterinarians and ranchers from both countries, battalions of Mexican

troops, and scientist from Europe and the Americas” (3). Even though one of the standard narratives about the *aftosa* campaign presents it as a US imposition to control the Mexican livestock industry in the context of the strengthening of the US hegemony after World War II, Rath shows the difficulties to reach agreements among different stakeholders, namely US and Mexican officials, state and local authorities, ranchers and livestock organizations, private foundations, veterinarians, and members of the scientific community. Rath emphasizes the contingent aspects of the epizootic crisis, and the way it “uncovered preexisting power structures, and was shaped by them” (4).

Rath shows that while the US government’s solution to the crisis was the mass slaughter of infected and exposed livestock, an array of actors were active players in resisting and even reshaping US ambitions. At the end, the *aftosa* campaign succeeded because of the overlapping of the so-called “sanitary rifle,” multilateral negotiations, repression, corruption, and new virological knowledge and technology. Far from explaining this success as the triumph of the modernizing Mexican elites over a backward peasantry, Rath shows how a cross-class rural resistance to the campaign set limits to state power. This book also offers an important contribution to reflect on the parallelism between the animal-disease-control campaigns and the binational antidrug campaigns that also began in the 1940s and even the counterinsurgency campaigns from the 1960s onward.

Chapter 1 revolves around environmental history and the history of livestock production, tracing a long arch from the introduction of domestic animals to New Spain in the sixteenth century to the development of the modern livestock industry in postrevolutionary Mexico. Chapter 2 explores how the *aftosa* campaign was planned and waged by the US-Mexico Commission for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (CMAEFA). Rath shows that while the commission operated under the consensus of modernizing the countryside, there were tensions and conflicting perspectives amongst its Mexican and US members, for instance, about the adoption of a vaccination program instead of the massive slaughter of livestock. Rath also documents the persistent corruption related to the campaign. Chapter 3 details the opposition to the *aftosa* campaign in the countryside, revealing unknown episodes of civil disobedience, lynching of state agents, and popular riots. Chapter 4 focuses on the tactics employed by the CMAEFA to counteract local resistance, ranging from repression to propaganda campaigns and negotiations with local caciques and other powerbrokers. Chapter 5 demonstrates how the *aftosa* campaign in Mexico contributed to consolidating the perception of the livestock industry as a matter of national security and development, which translated into institutional building supported by private actors like the Rockefeller Foundation. Chapter 6 shows the global reverberations of the Mexican *aftosa* campaign—especially in Latin America—and reveals the obstacles that US officials faced to hegemonize the politics of animal disease control in the Western world.

Rath’s project is original not only because of the way it intertwines different areas of study, but also because of the novelty of its sources, drawn from a wide variety of US, Mexican,

and European archives. Rath's monograph is an important addition to the scholarship that is changing our understanding of mid-century Mexico.

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## DEMOCRATIZATION AND IMPUNITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CRIMES

*Of Light and Struggle: Social Justice, Human Rights, and Accountability in Uruguay.* By Debbie Sharnak. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023. Pp. 352. \$45.00 cloth; \$45.00 e-book.  
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Debbie Sharnak analyzes the changing language of human rights in Uruguay. She recounts Uruguay's history of early twentieth-century social democracy and its later descent into repression and dictatorship in a slow-motion coup. Her theme is summarized here: "By recovering the connection between the pre-dictatorship articulations of a just Uruguayan society and the human rights language of the transitional period, this book shows how a more expansive language helped give new force to a set of ideas that were nonetheless deeply rooted in the period before the 1973 coup" (7). The book provides a useful review of Uruguay's record of respect for social and economic as well as political rights, introduced by President Battle y Ordonez (1903–07, 1911–15), until the 1950s and 1960s. With an emerging economic crisis, authoritarian leaders gradually dismantled those rights. She weaves together the roles of international human rights groups such as Amnesty and WOLA (Washington Office on Latin America) with those of the Uruguayan Communist Party, the Tupamaros, the unions and the CNT (Convención Nacional de Trabajadores), the student movement, and the Frente Amplio.

The middle chapters are the heart of the book. In them, Sharnak examines the activities of domestic forces and transnational human rights groups during the dictatorship. She references the policies of the United States in chapter 3, mainly the diplomatic actions of the Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan administrations (conspicuously absent is any significant discussion of the covert role the United States played in the deepening repression of the 1960s). She outlines the end of the military regime via a pacted transition, the elected government's passage of the *Ley de Caducidad*, Uruguay's "impunity law," and the ensuing attempts by social activists to overturn it.

In the first chapter, the author takes pains to find examples of social and political movements' specific recognition of women's rights and the rights of LGBT, Afro-Uruguayans, and Jewish people during the 1960s. She repeatedly refers to the absence of women's and LGBT rights as an explicit goal of unions, political parties, and