

O. H. K. Spate, *The Pacific Since Magellan. Vol. 2, Monopolists and Freebooters*. Canberra: Australian National University Press; Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1983. Pp. xxi, 426. A\$ 39.00. U.S.\$59.50.

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Monopolists and Freebooters is the second volume in Spate's *The Pacific Since Magellan*, the aim of which is "to seek to explicate the process by which the greatest blank on the map became a nexus of global commer-

cial and strategic relations." Volume 1, *The Spanish Lake* (1979), covered the story from a little before Magellan until a little after Drake--essentially the sixteenth century. In this volume, Spate is mostly concerned with the seventeenth century and the first half of the eighteenth, though he traces the fate of Spain's American possessions through to the early nineteenth century-- a device that tidies off a major theme of his work and will, presumably, make for an uncluttered discussion of British and French exploration and expansion in Volume 3. *Monopolists and Freebooters*, like its predecessor, is still very much the history of the Pacific Ocean, the lands that encircle it, and politics in Europe; it is the history of a period in which the rim of the Pacific basin became quite well known but its contents--especially the shrinking Terra Australis--remained incognita.

A major theme of the book is the growth of Dutch interests in the Pacific from the first incursions of the late sixteenth century to the effective monopoly established by the 1670s. The turbulent nature of the early years is encapsulated in the report of Jan Pieterszoon Coen, governor general at Batavia (Jakarta) to his directors in Amsterdam: "We cannot carry on trade without war nor war without trade." In Asia Dutch expansion--which stretched into Japan and China, well beyond the previous limits of European influence--was achieved largely at the expense of Spanish and Portuguese interests; in central and south America Iberian interests were challenged by buccaneers and privateers (both legitimate, in the sense that they were licensed by European governments, and illegitimate) and, finally, by the prosperous Criollo elites of the colonies themselves.

By the end of the seventeenth century the Pacific Ocean was ringed by pockets of European settlement representing a mixture of strategic, commercial, and religious hopes and enterprises. While culture contact is expected to be a major theme of the forthcoming volume, there is some discussion of relationships between foreigners and indigenes. Generally, however, these are subsumed into the broader theme of European expansion, the author's approach making it inevitable that the implications of conflict, for example, are seen more clearly in this context than as a part of an ongoing indigenous history. And although there can be little space given to these discussions, Spate leaves his readers in no doubt as to his assessment of many of these early agents of imperial expansion. While many modern historians hesitate to commit themselves openly, Spate's judgment, both implicit and explicit, of his historical characters and of historical situations is an essential part of the style of the book (as, indeed, are the breadth of Spate's allusions, his wit, and his delightful use of language). Thus he does not hesitate to describe the

Jesuit mission to the Marianas as being "carried forward behind a creeping barrage of sheer terrorism," to comment that "by the time the Marianas were safely Christian, most of the Chamorros were safely dead," to conclude that this onslaught on the Chamorros was "the more pitiful because so needless" given that "traffic with the natives" could have met the needs of the galleons, and to lament with Lucretius the evils committed in the name of religion (pp. 116-118).

The storms, calms, and crosscurrents of an ocean's history are impossible to chart in a brief review; suffice it to say that a reader cannot but be impressed by both the scope of Spate's grasp of his subject and the breadth of his vision across Europe, the Pacific Ocean, and the continents and islands around and within it. Because of this breadth of vision, and the sureness of Spate's touch and his ability to draw on the fruits of a lifetime of scholarship, diverse threads can be woven into single fabric. But the reader who is not to be overwhelmed by ships, blockades, campaigns, skirmishes, intrigues, and a host of colorful characters needs both a very good knowledge of geography (or a good map) and a great deal of persistence. *Monopolists and Freebooters* is densely packed with both information and insights (which might, for the benefit of the nonspecialist, have been alleviated by more generalization), but it will force sections of the historical profession, which have for their own convenience compartmentalized the history of the Pacific Ocean, to reappraise the conceptual basis of their work. a