

fate of their followers. Applicants for reparations must leave out any mention of the Shining Path other than as perpetrators.

The 'silences' studied by Robin Azevedo also refer to the disturbing moments during brutal periods of the conflict, when some communities or individuals benefitted by aiding the military, by expropriating land and livestock from neighbouring towns, or by turning in a neighbour. Years of fieldwork have allowed Robin Azevedo to probe these different taboo subjects at the centre of her book, still painfully present or relevant decades after the end of the conflict. She handles a variety of ethical questions, including the danger of outing former Shining Path supporters, with aplomb. In fact, *Los silencios de la guerra* represents a model for subsequent studies that seek to explore these thorny and tender topics.

These two outstanding books examine regions out of the limelight of Shining Path studies. They demonstrate the advantages of – if not necessity for – a long timeframe and address sensitively the aftermath of the conflict. Both dialogue with and contribute to debates about war, violence and memory in Peru and beyond, providing a great deal of material for researchers other than Peruvianists.

doi:10.1017/S0022216X23000081

David Rock, *The British in Argentina: Commerce, Settlers and Power, 1800–2000*

(Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), xxi + 424 pp.

Matthew Brown

University of Bristol

My review of this book was rather delayed by the global pandemic and I apologise for that. I had been looking forward to seeing this book in publication since I learned that it was being written some years ago. It does not disappoint. This is a major piece of work by one of the most-cited, most-read and most-respected historians of Argentina. It is original, of broad scope, and is based on a lot of original primary research and on the revision of a mass of secondary literature.

This is the first major work on the history of the British in Argentina in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, building on and refining earlier works from William Spence Robertson (*A History of Argentina*, 2011) to H. S. Ferns (*Britain and Argentina in the Nineteenth Century*, 1960), and giving a further Argentina-focused depth to Rory Miller's *Britain and Latin America* (1993). There are no comparable works on the British in other individual Latin American countries, and this work will no doubt provide a reference point and comparative model for the brave souls who make subsequent attempts elsewhere. David Rock is able to make a success of this book because he combines empathy for the protagonists of the story with rich understanding of the intricacies and complexities of Argentine politics and economics. The long runs of several surviving

English-language newspapers produced in Argentina are an important source that are not replicated in many places, for example.

Although the author likes a good historical narrative where appropriate it is never anecdotal and always rooted in the historiography, and usually draws from primary and secondary sources produced in Argentina. A lot of value is given to the accounts of interpretations of British diplomatic and consular representatives – perhaps a little more than I would have preferred – but it is understandable because of the copious documentation and the closeness to the British communities being studied. The focus is on the Anglo-Argentine settler communities, and though there are interesting discussions of Welsh, Scottish and Irish groups, in large part the overall interpretation follows a loose equation of Anglo, English and British. Nor is this a study of mutual influence between Britain and Argentina – the Anglophilia of Jorge Luis Borges, for example, gets just a couple of mentions.

The book proceeds in a fashion that is at once both broadly chronological and thematic. Hence the first chapter on soldiers and merchants in the independence period segues into discussion of diplomats, settlers and travellers in the immediate post-colonial years. Moving through the late nineteenth and into the early twentieth century there are separate chapters on ranchers and shepherds, bankers and investors, and employees and educators. All of these chapters are rich, detailed and illustrated with the personal stories of the men and women in Argentina who identified with Britain. The final third of the book deals with the disintegration of what some have called the British ‘informal empire’ in Argentina, and the rise of anti-British nationalism. The final chapter on Britain and Juan Perón, a tour-de-force of manipulation, strategising and political analysis, is followed by a hopeful epilogue imagining possible recalibration of a bilateral diplomatic relationship that was shattered by the Malvinas/Falklands conflict. The book ends with the testimonies of the descendants of British settlers, who talk with fondness about their dual, multifaceted identities and whose attachments to language, place and history go beyond the forced divisions of putative nation-states.

The book is crammed with surprising and compelling evidence. There is some fantastic detail on the schools linked to British communities, which tend to be remembered for their adoption and promotion of football. For example Alexander Watson Hutton (1853–1936) was not only a soccer promoter and the energy behind the all-conquering Alumni football team, but also the builder of the first school swimming pool in Buenos Aires and responsible for constructing the country’s first tennis court for girls only. Rock also has an eye for the less celebrated figures, such as William Case Morris, the founder in 1898 of the Escuelas Evangélicas Argentinas, a network of orphanages through which up to 70,000 children had passed by 1925. Given the shadow of military conflict that bookends the text (the British invasions of 1806–7, the Malvinas/Falklands in 1982), it is interesting to reflect on the great efforts made by Argentines of British origin to avoid military service in the land they made their home. (In 1906–7, as Rock reports, drawing on *The Standard* newspaper, Anglo-Argentines demanded the formation of segregated white battalions to avoid having to serve alongside Indigenous or mestizo soldiers.) By 1958 over 100 residents of Buenos Aires had been decorated with the Order of the British Empire (OBE), including one woman, the educator Winifred Brightman.

Overall, then, this splendid book provides an essential historical bedrock for any serious contemplation of the establishment of British communities outside of the formal empire in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It also provides a kaleidoscope of the human stories that made up much of the affective relationship between Britain and Argentina, and can be dipped into with great reward by the curious reader. It raises and leaves unanswered many questions, such as the longer-term consequences of community action around sports, culture, banking or military service. The author's intention is to provide readers with the tools and materials to answer these questions, and they are very well served by his efforts.

doi:10.1017/S0022216X23000093

Natalia Milanesio, *¡Destape! Sex, Democracy, and Freedom in Postdictatorial Argentina*

(Pittsburgh, PA: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2019), x + 326 pp.

Patricio Simonetto

School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds

Natalia Milanesio's most recent book is a distinctive intervention into recent Argentine and Latin American historiography. The book inspires a refreshing intimate history of the conflictive anxieties, desires and frustrations of the generation that came to adulthood with the collapse of Argentina's bloodiest military government. This monograph proposes a research agenda to explore the uncontrollable desires for new freedoms previously banned by the State and the cultural conservatism of previous generations – helping us to expand our historical understanding of democracy and citizenship.

The context for this bold piece of writing is the fortieth anniversary of the renaissance of Argentine democracy and the attendant public discourse about its social, political and cultural challenges. While debates on democratisation in the Southern Cone have usually been monopolised by sociology, memory studies and political sciences, this monograph joins forces with other recent publications, such as Jennifer Adair's *In Search of the Lost Decade* (2019), to showcase the ability of historical approaches to push our understanding beyond institutionalist perspectives. Milanesio's book is the first compelling study of sexuality in the democratisation of Argentina – and one of the most prominent historical studies about this topic in the region. This book promises to take studies on the 1980s in a new direction, expanding on the still meagre studies of the democratisation process and contributing to counterbalance the strong historiography of the 1960s and 1970s.

Milanesio's main argument is that the *destape* ('taking the lid off, undressing, uncovering') was one of the most explosive sociocultural phenomena at the fall of the military dictatorship – a flexion point that revitalised the visual and discursive regimes of public conversation (and practice) about sexuality and the body.