

Riley, Carroll L.: *Rio del Norte: People of the Upper Rio Grande From Earliest Times to the Pueblo Revolt*. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1995, ISBN 0-87480-466-3 Cloth USA \$29.95; ISBN 0-87480-496-5 Paper USA \$15.95.

Carroll Riley's new book, *Rio del Norte*, sits at a meeting place between the subjects of geography, history, and archaeology. Since these areas together have seen too few other works of good quality, it is the reader's good fortune that Riley is well qualified to address all of them.

In his Introduction, Riley indicates that this book is not intended purely for either the specialist or the general reader. In this objective he has succeeded almost too well, since it is not technical enough to substitute for now-out-of-date specialist summaries, yet presents some surprising obstacles for any layman who is not a native resident of the southwestern portion of North America. This latter point can be seen in the first two chapters where the reader is led through a bewildering abundance of local place-names, but is only supplied with maps of very limited detail. Unfortunately, this lack of map detail is characteristic of the work as a whole, and must be considered a significant flaw.

Following a short Introduction, Riley separates the book's contents into two halves: "Part One: The Native Americans" which describes the prehistory and original culture of his chosen geographic area, the Northern Rio Grande Basin, in eight chapters; and "Part Two: The Invaders" which describes the arrival and dominance of the Spaniards in ten chapters.

Chapter One, "What's In a Name?", and Chapter Two, "Sun, Rain, and Growing Things," set the stage for a description of the succession of Native cultures. Chapter Three, "The First New Mexicans," uses Joseph Greenberg's classification of New World languages and deals briefly with the "Pre-Clovis" problem before discussing the Paleoindians: The Clovis and Folsom cultures. Readers will find Riley's treatment of the Clovis Culture particularly thoughtful and thorough.

In Chapter Four, "Small Societies in a Large Land," Riley utilizes a discussion of Cynthia Irwin-Williams' Oshara Culture construct to deal with the Archaic period of northern New Mexico. And in Chapter Five, "Setting the Scene," Riley presents the general chronology and technological descriptions of the major prehistoric agricultural societies—the Anasazi, Hohokam, and Mogollon—during the first thousand years after the time of Christ.

A considerably longer chapter, Chapter Six, "The San Juan Co-Prosperity Sphere," contains a discussion of the Chaco Phenomenon and other developments among Anasazi populations between A.D. 1000 and 1300.

While not supporting any particular speculative interpretation of the Chaco Phenomenon current among archaeologists, Riley sees a strong role for the trade in turquoise with Mesoamerica (West and Central Mexico). This chapter concludes with the gradual abandonment of large portions of New Mexico by agricultural populations.

In Chapter Seven, "The Golden Age," Riley provides a lengthy discussion of the new cultural developments characteristic of the early Pueblo IV period (A.D. 1300-1500). These include the swell in town size and overall population, and the major developments in social institutions and material culture that occurred within the Northern Rio Grande Basin during this period. More speculative is his reconstruction of linguistic prehistory back to ca. 500 B.C., which I understand is flawed in that Riley does not seem to clearly understand the full implications of Trager's (1967) recognition that Tewa originated as a pidginization of Tiwa.

Chapter Eight, "1492 on the Rio Grande," contains a summary survey of Pueblo Indian lifestyle before European influence, based on a combination of archaeological and ethnographic data.

Part Two, "The Invaders," contains ten chapters that cover the impact of the Spaniards up to A.D. 1700. This is the early historical period of New Mexico that is already well-known from other works, e.g., Spicer (1962) and Kessell (1979). Despite its length, this section as a whole is peculiarly unbalanced in the length and detail given to different portions of its subject matter. For example, Riley expends more than four chapters on the Coronado Expedition alone, yet in his last chapter he covers the major upheaval of the Pueblo Revolt in only two pages! There is also no treatment of the time period from A.D. 1700 to the present day. This produces the impression of an unfinished work that has been quickly tied off in its final chapter.

In his Introduction Riley states that he will "try to see... events through Native American eyes." Unfortunately, Riley's style of presentation is so withdrawn and dispassionate that we get little more than a distilled narration of events. Partly this is because Riley seldom quotes directly from the documents themselves, with the result that the *Sturm und Drang* that sometimes exists in them is not expressed. For example, the first artificially induced famine in New Mexico was created in the winter of A.D. 1600-1601 by the newly settled Spanish colonists seizure of the Pueblo Indians' food stores. Riley does not even mention this event. The distress caused by the seizure was described by a Spanish soldier, Captain Luis de Velasco, as follows:

The feelings of the [N]atives against supplying it [grain from their stores] cannot be exaggerated, for I give your lordship my word that they weep and cry out as if they and all their

descendants were being killed... I have even seen and observed that the natives pick up the individual kernels of maize that fall to the ground; the Indian women will follow behind the loads for two leagues for this purpose (Hammond and Rey 1953:609-610).

It seems to me that in order to give an adequate representation of the Native peoples' reactions to European contact, historians need to bring home to the reader the emotional impact of events, whenever known. In this regard, Riley's book cannot be considered to be a successful portrait of the reactions of Native peoples to invasion and conquest by Europeans.

All the above said, Riley's work is of considerable value in drawing together into one, easily read volume both the prehistory and the early colonial history of an important segment of the Greater Southwest. Also, Riley has included a very strong and useful section on sources and commentary for those who wish to do more reading.

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