

EDITOR S' NOTE

This year's issue of *Past Imperfect* has the good fortune of being able to publish five articles that share a common central theme, one beautifully captured in Diego Rivera's dramatic portrayal of Mexican revolutionary Emille Zapata that graces the cover—the theme of domination and resistance. Rivera's 1931 picture is part of a larger mural that presents a visual history of Mexico from the standpoint of the poor and downtrodden. While *Past Imperfect* will follow tradition this year and paint our historical portraits in plain prose, the collection of papers in this edition of the journal all explore their topics with a particular sensitivity to the perspectives of the disenfranchised. The opening article by Peter Rogers—*Stirring Words, Ruling Ideas, and the Price of Bread: Reflections on a Gramscian-Thompsonian Approach to Cultural History*—is a theoretical treatise. It argues that Antonio Gramsci's concept of elite hegemony complements rather than competes with E. P. Thompson's notion of the moral economy of the peasant. Thus, peasants skillfully use the moral rhetoric of the elite (by which they justify their privilege) to pressure them to look after peasant interests or suffer the consequences, which insures a fair "price of bread." In the second essay of the collection—*Labouring to Choose, Choosing to Labour: Coercion and Choice in the Potosi Mita*—Matthew Smith takes us back in time to the colonial context of 16th century South America and the labour regime that the Spanish imposed to ensure adequate manpower for their huge silver mining operations in Potosi. Though the Indians were in no position to reject or ignore the Spanish demands, they could and did exercise agency by deciding either to flee to other regions or to work at the mines for the required time and then stay on to enjoy the benefits of being a voluntary labourer. Following this piece comes *Faith, Identity, and the Nation: The Impact of the May Thirtieth Incident on China's Christian Colleges*. This paper, written by John Barwick, shifts the scene of action across the Pacific Ocean to semi-colonial China in the early part of the twentieth century, where Western missionaries started Christian colleges for the purpose of winning converts and teaching Western science and culture. In this case, the ideals of Christianity mixed with volatile nationalist currents to force a renegotiation of identity and power on the part of both missionaries and Chinese. From China, we continue the journey westward with an essay on post-colonial Africa by Maxwell Zhira titled *Uncovering the Reality of State Violence in Western Zimbabwe, 1982-1987*. Here we see colonial structures of power that have been taken over by Africans, but ironically are once again being employed for the oppressive purpose of eradicating political opposition. In a significant twist, the Zimbabwean author of the article himself becomes a voice of resistance by seeking to expose the injustices of the Mugabe regime. With the final piece, *Dreaming of a Better World: Student Rebellion in 1960s Regina*, we come full circle in our global odyssey, ending, appropriately enough, in Canada. This paper chronicles how students at the University of Saskatchewan's satellite campus in Regina, disillusioned by what they believed were the unfulfilled democratic ideals of the older generation, challenged the authority of school administrators in an attempt to shake up the status quo and build a more open society.

The hard work of many people has helped to make this year's edition of *Past Imperfect* possible. In particular, we are grateful for the valuable contributions of Associate Editors Matthew Eisler and Roberta Lexier, the effort of Book Review Editor Tonya Lambert (this is the first year *Past Imperfect* has included a book review section), and the editing assistance of Katherine Zwicker. The help of our History and Classics office staff—Louise Jenkins, Linda Bridges, Lydia Dugbazah, and Dietland Bechtold—is greatly appreciated. And in closing, we want to thank editorial board members Dr. Lesley Cormack, Dr. Margriet Haagsma, Dr. Patricia Prestwich, Dr. Guy Thompson, and Dr. Sinh Vinh for their support and guidance.