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Reading Response

Question 1

Van Young upfront draws a line that the independence war which Father Miguel Hildago ignited attracted the so-called patriots who responded for various reasons both for personal and political grounds. Agustín Marroquín is such an example of those that retorted for personal reasons. While Marroquín's earlier life is veiled, he is depicted as a notorious criminal at age twenty, crimes he did for personal gain and against the state and individuals. As a result, it suffices for me to conclude that Marroquín's life was so exceptional that his experiences and personal connections cannot represent anything beyond his lifestyle based on several evidentiary instances.

First, personal characteristics of Marroquín, counting his devious and ingenious nature, a man who was a sadist and prone to challenge figures in authority, are but attributes of an individual who is out for personal gain and inherently self-centered. Secondly, as any judicious compatriot would agree, a war for independence often involves and engages visionary nationalists who express no idleness at either level of their quest, all for the mutual benefit of their fellow citizens. Nonetheless, Marroquín was given entirely to "a life of idleness whenever he could manage and of indiscriminating crime against individuals and the state whenever he deemed his resources were dwindling."; this is a clear representation of Marroquín's devotion to his lifestyle and personal wellness.

Question 2

Maria Antônia Muniz and her family were among the inhabitants who resided in a disputed territory of the eastern bank of river Plata. Hence, her family life was intertwined with an ongoing borderlands inter conflict between Spain and Portugal as well as then Brazil and

Paraguay since this region was hotly contested by both the Portuguese and the Spanish, who desired to control this magnificent river system. The Spanish depicted the river as a vulnerable path to Potosi's famed silver mines in Bolivia. At the same time, the Portuguese saw the Plata River as the ideal way to access the inland regions of Mato Grosso. Consequently, by downplaying Jose Artigas of Uruguay's challenge, who fought for the territory's independence, Brazil perpetually pressed for interest in the area. Thus, Maria Antônia Muniz's family, which was native and raised in the region, was just a direct victim of these imperial ambitions that claimed the territory.

Correspondingly, I think Maria Antônia Muniz's family confronted much internal conflict or violence since, according to their progenitor Maria Antonia, the disputed territory was a land of opportunity just like the U.S. frontier. Thus, Frontier families being large and extended, "competition among family members may have been as common as the more idealized notion of cooperation."

Question 3

After the revolution in America, I think the post-revolutionary politicians still held the traditional belief that leadership was a masculine thing, and only men could air a voice in their matters. Similarly, during the revolution, women like Rosa Torre Gonzalez played vital but inferior roles as "soldaderas." They "cooked for the troops and sometimes carried weapons for the soldiers." Thus, they could equally be allowed to hold political office after the Revolution, which their men counterparts felt entailed light or mediocre roles compared to voting, which represented power or superiority.

According to Buck, the notion of maternalism essentially articulated that women were entitled to vote since their innate maternal attributes permitted them to care for society. However,

it is this aspect of "care" that the masculine gender might have viewed as inferior roles women deserved to play and not to vote and leadership, which entailed electing influential leaders and holding prominent positions in the society. Subsequently, women made a vital contributions including "organizing labor unions and agrarian leagues to compel the government to fulfill its promise of reforms" during the revolution. However, the prevailing "gender roles and scorn of women" as camp followers meant women were subordinate to men. Thus, could not earn equal rights as men.

Question 4

I think the phrase "local political culture" used by Wells and Joseph refers to the local political dynasty, which saw all individuals from Pedro Crespo's family, who craved for political power thrive in the quest to preserve *poderio* (local power base) from a mere intrinsic perception that he was born a *lider nato* (local leader).

Pedro Crespo was interested in power and not affluence; as such, he had always perceived himself to be a born local leader, a chief. Thus, owing to local political traditions, all the folks in Temax came to regard him as such. That is, the political culture had resolved to make him a local leader. Crespo had become incapable of transcending his locality and losing the bond with this political culture that had produced him. Therefore, Crespo "did what was necessary to preserve his local power base." The latter considerations entailed Pedro Crespo expressing relentless political vigilance as well as negotiation. In the end, Pedro Crespo was counted among the powerful, and the dawn of revolution presented to him a chance he did not hesitate to seize. Hence, he stroked deals with influential planters and made bargains with emerging revolutionary states which comes out clearly as one reads the text.

Question 5

Samba, through the figure streetwise hustler (malandro), reveals that Rio de Janeiro was a city where folks never slept. Analogous to the asphalt sharks, all who ascribed to the *marandros* family were always out to explore the city. Rio de Janeiro had people from all walks of life. They ranged from law-abiding citizens, the poor, businessmen to criminals who were always striving to be ahead of police "who hounded them." Additionally, Geraldo Pereira, a malandro model, helped further reflect the the social dynamics of Rio de Janeiro through Sambas. Here, Samba depicted Rio de Janeiro as a world of rhythm and melody, exposing the city's intricacies and dilemmas with "perfect economy and arresting insight."

The progression of Geraldo Pereira from the early stages of Samba to its growth saw Geraldo Pereira strive to give "flesh to the icon of the period's sambas." In the end, it is Geraldo Pereira's experiences that led Samba to move from being played by an amateur for a group of onlookers into a commercial activity for a paying audience. Until his death, it is Geraldo Pereira's experiences that helped build and nurture some "seventy sambas counting a dozen that figured among the genres all-time greats," making the new significance of Samba music. Despite these experiences turning Geraldo Pereira into a cultural icon, they helped expose persistent social inequalities between the elites and bureaucrats, and members of the lower orders. Where that former despised him, and the latter feared and admired him.

Question 6

Some of the dilemmas and challenges underpinning the challenging urban context of Buenos Aires' working people included rapid population growth, pandemic diseases, outbreaks of epidemic as well as inadequate housing. As a result, any effort employed by the Conis was

directed to accomplishing the selected goals they had recognized and acknowledged to entail the dilemmas. That women who worked and the roles rather work that they carried out in their respective domiciles, the factory, and the bordello, strategically positioned them as subjects for reformist activities. It is true to say that women did not have the right to chose what they want and how they will do it.

Correspondingly, the aforementioned unsolved dilemmas virtually affected women and children on varying levels. First, due to shaky public policy and private efforts, there were unprecedented rates of infant mortality and infectious diseases. This to some extent shows the degradation of humanity towards women in the reading. Due to lack of control over their lives, these circumstances resulted in women being poor mothers, stalled in household tasks, unhealthy working conditions, and blinded by ignorance. Such a case shows how women were despised and treated as less humans during those times a practice that needs to be fought against from all dimensions.

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