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- ¹ In his 2014 book *El cura y los mandarines* Gregorio Marañón pointed to the lack of scholarly attention paid to the 1964 Francoist celebration of 25 Years of Peace, despite the weight it pulled in shaping national and international perceptions of Spain in the later part of the Franco regime. *XXV años de paz franquista* begins to fill that void; its sixteen articles address the cultural-historical context and some of the cultural production of that year-long propaganda campaign. The editors divided the articles in this volume—the first entirely dedicated to the Spanish government’s multi-media commemoration—into three sections. The first section comprises seven articles that provide background information on the 1964 social, cultural and political milieu. The four articles in the second section focus on the ways the visual arts were mobilized in the state propaganda campaign. The third section turns its attention to the literary scene, examining the larger field of production in 1964 in different genres such as theater, poetry and travel literature, as well as how novels subverted Francoism through irony or the Latin American boom that erupted onto the Spanish cultural scene in the 1960s. Several themes emerge as constants throughout the volume. As a celebration meant to interrupt the Manichean trope of winners and losers that had plagued Spain since the civil war, the 25 Years of Peace focused on Spanish modernity and prosperity as the country opened itself up to international investment and tourism. Esther Almarcha and Rafael Villena’s (“La impresión de lo moderno”) incisive readings of images in commemorative books published in Castilla-La Mancha for the 25 Years of Peace show how photographs contributed to the goal of making visible Spain’s achievements by bringing together formal critical analysis with larger cultural contextualization. Another constant is Franco’s protagonism in the celebration, which sought to humanize his image, as we see in Anna Scicolone’s “¡Bajo la paz de Franco!,” which examines newsreels featuring the 25 Years of Peace Celebration. And while the visual emphasis of the campaign is clear in the book’s second section, more scholarly

work is needed to better understand how and why modern visual tastes were mobilized to push a conservative state agenda. The biggest takeaway from this novel, informative volume is how much work remains in order to comprehend the importance of this celebration as both a display of state power and a shift toward a more liberal Spanish society. Of the topics barely touched upon in these sixteen articles are the celebration's international reach; its musical, literary and journalistic manifestations; and, most strikingly, the varied forms of resistance adopted to counter the official celebration.