

fluence with party organizations and occasionally has served the government in enforcing recent legislation. His views are indicative of an awakening interest in this field.

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*Francisco de Urdiñola y el Norte de la Nueva España.* By VITO ALESSIO ROBLES. (Mexico: Imprenta Mundial, Miravalle, 13, 1931. Illustrations and maps. Pp. XXV, 333.)

Francisco de Urdiñola played a large part in the affairs of northern New Spain—in Nueva Galicia and Nueva Vizcaya—in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. He was Indian fighter, miner, cattle-raiser, agriculturalist, colonizer, and governor. So important were his services that he should be ranked with contemporary conquistadores such as Luís de Carabajal and Juan de Oñate. But unfortunately, prior to the appearance of the present study by Señor Alessio Robles, very little was known about Urdiñola, and much of that meager information was tainted with error.

There were two major "myths" concerning Urdiñola. The first represented Francisco de Urdiñola, "El Mozo", to be the son of Francisco de Urdiñola, "El Viejo", a great conquistador and frontier magnate of the middle sixteenth century. Señor Alessio Robles finds that Urdiñola came to America shortly after 1572 as a poor boy, and that his father, Juan de Urdiñola, never came to America. Thus he explodes the myth of the two Urdiñolas.

A second "myth" represented the conquistador as a monster of wickedness and perfidy who numbered among his numerous victims murdered in cold blood, his own wife. The evidence according to Robles, proves that Urdiñola was the innocent victim of an unscrupulous enemy, Juan Bautista de Lomas y Colmenares, a disappointed applicant for a commission to colonize New Mexico. This commission, after the elimination of many applicants, had been awarded to Urdiñola. Although acquitted of the charge that he murdered his wife, the protracted trial caused Urdiñola to lose his commission to colonize New Mexico. But for the opposition of Lomas y Colmenares, Francisco de Urdiñola and not Juan de Oñate would have been the conquistador of New Mexico.

By dint of patient, thorough, and critical examination of documen-

tary evidence, Señor Alessio Robles paints in its true colors the portrait of the authentic Urdiñola. He writes:

The figure of this conquistador is one of surpassing interest. A man of energy, of intelligence, and of character, he was able to raise himself from the most humble stations to those most elevated in the viceroyalty. His enemies, strong and powerful, heaped obstacles in his path but he knew how to surmount them and rise by his own efforts. He was a valiant and skilled soldier, a successful miner, cultivator, stockman, and industrialist. In many ways the figure of Don Francisco de Urdiñola stands in higher relief than does the figure of that other illustrious Basque, who was called Don Francisco de Ibarra.

He was captain of Mazapil, founder of the towns of San Estéban de Nueva Tlaxcala (adjoining the villa of Santiago del Saltillo), of Concepción del Oro, of Parras, and of Los Patos; lieutenant to the governor and captain general of Nueva Galicia, and for many years he was governor of Nueva Vizcaya.

The account which the author unfolds of Francisco de Urdiñola is human, dramatic, and intriguing. Yet it is more than the biography of a man—it is an important contribution to the history of a period and a region of New Spain about which very little has been known.

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*Evolução do Povo Brasileiro.* 2a edição. By F. J. OLIVEIRA VIANNA. [Bibliotheca Pedagógica Brasileira, Serie V, Brasiliana, Vol. X.] (São Paulo: Companhia Editora Nacional, 1933. Pp. 327.)

*Populações Meridionaes do Brasil: Historia, Organização, Psychologia.* Primeira volume. 3a edição. By F. J. OLIVEIRA VIANNA. [Bibliotheca Pedagógica Brasileira, Serie V, Brasiliana, Vol. VIII.] (São Paulo: Companhia Editora Nacional, 1933. Pp. 452.)

*Populações Paulistas.* By ALFREDO ELLIS, JUNIOR. [Bibliotheca Pedagógica Brasileira, Serie V, Brasiliana, Vol. XXVII.] (São Paulo: Companhia Editora Nacional, 1934. Pp. 364.)

Though the two works by Sr. Oliveira Vianna have appeared in earlier editions, they are hardly known in English-language countries. Hence, since they are again in print they deserve a brief notice here, for they may render considerable service to historians.

The volume on the *Evolução do Povo Brasileiro* treats of the social, ethnical, and political evolution of the nation, which the author believes shows tendencies that are becoming more marked with the passage of time: the movement of the population toward the central