

*Free Men of America.* By EZEQUIEL PADILLA. (Chicago: Ziff-Davis, 1943. Pp. 173. \$2.50.)

This analysis of the rôle of the New World in the coming era by the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs is a remarkably brilliant presentation of the political and economic problems facing the statesmen of today. Although there is a continuity of ideas leading up to a carefully thought-out conclusion, the chapters are brief essays on correlated subjects which can be considered separately almost as profitably as when read as parts of the whole. It is the story of the common man of America "first overwhelmed by the violence of the conquest, then enslaved . . . by the rigors of the colonial period and by productive capitalism but ever moving unswervingly toward liberty down the paths of democracy and continental coöperation."

Dr. Padilla makes some very interesting comparisons in the development of his thesis as, for example, the similarity between the Civil War in the United States to abolish slavery and the struggle of the Latin Americans to free themselves from the Spanish conquerors. He sees the Monroe Doctrine and the Pan-American Doctrine as two rivers which, having flowed a long way in the same direction but in separate channels, finally merge in one vast overwhelming stream.

The chapter on Imperialism shows a wide comprehension of historical precedents and a realistic appreciation of resulting developments. But he finds that imperialism is no longer convenient—it is poor business, an international danger and the world conscience rejects it. Modern technology, democracy, and the rise of the new international conscience are forces which "will render useless the blood stained paths of imperialism."

Dr. Padilla is completely realistic in his discussion of Latin-American problems. He concedes that democracy has never existed in Latin-American countries because a feudal system has continued there under the control of a small group of the descendants of the colonial gentry who are masters of the national wealth and resources. In government, the President is everything, his ministers a pallid reflection of himself; he governs, the assembly obeys. Corrupt systems make the election of representatives and senators mere empty formulas. However, he feels that in America "the ever-growing propaganda for democracies will be a decisive force . . . one-man rule, the tradition of sinister dictatorship, the striking militarism that has befouled our history for centuries will not be able to endure under the emblem of the victorious democracies."

He is optimistic regarding coöperation in the Western Hemisphere, but it must be based upon a partial voluntary relinquishment of sep-

arate national rights, "the reciprocity of mutual dependence." In other words, a true Pan Americanism rests upon "the practical realization that the objectives of imperialism and conquest, which were to assure markets and raw materials can be achieved more profitably and safely through coöperation."

There may be honest scepticism of Dr. Padilla's over-optimistic confidence in a socialistic Utopia, but there can be no criticism of his staunch belief in the value of closer political and economic coöperation in the two Americas. In these days of serious threats to the democratic ideals of the western world, it is fortunate that the Foreign Minister of our great sister republic to the south is a statesman so realistically idealistic.

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*Documentos do arquivo. Presidentes de Provincias 1802-1817.* Vol. I. [Secretaria do Govêrno de Pernambuco.] (Recife: Imprensa Oficial, 1941. Pp. 378.)

This is the first of a series of volumes designed to "tornar conhecidos e subtrair à ação destruidora do tempo numerosos e importantes papeis ligados aos fatos historicos e à vida administrativa de Pernambuco desde o tempo das então Capitancias." Students of Brazilian history will be very grateful to the Secretaria do Govêrno for the fulfillment of the promise it now makes, to place important papers of the official archive of Pernambuco within the easy reach of everyone. The present volume is only the beginning of an ambitious project; yet it gives us enough of a preview of what the series will one day be to make us hope that the war will not interfere in any way with its eventual realization. The National Library of Rio and the Government of São Paulo have both published valuable collections of documents; there is no reason why the wealth of the Pernambuco archive should not be made available in the same way.

Most of the material here published is directly related to the revolutionary movement of 1817 in Alagoas, Paraíba, Rio Grande do Norte, and Ceará. As is well known, the signal for revolt was given in Recife on March 6, 1817, and from the Pernambuco capital the rebellion against the Braganza monarchy in Rio quickly spread to nearby captaincies. The upheaval of 1817 was probably the nearest thing to a war of independence on the Spanish-American model that Brazil had; and there can be no doubt that in the two Americas at that time very similar forces were at work. The movement which resulted in the emancipation of Brazil from Portugal a few years later, in