

*Tierra y alma boliviana.* By FEDERICO ÁVILA. Second edition. (Asunción, Paraguay: La Colmena, S. A., 1943. Pp. 278.)

This book was first published in 1938. The fact that a second edition has been published shows its popularity.

*Tierra y alma boliviana* is a sociological and historical study of Bolivian life. The book begins with a description of the physiographic background, and then turns to an analysis of the relations between the background and the story of man in Bolivia. Hence much is made of the Bolivian *Pachamama*, or the dependence of the people upon Mother Earth.

The book is divided into five chapters with its further subdivisions. The first chapter deals with "Bolivia: tierra del paisaje"; the second with "La altiplanicie interandina"; the third with "Los valles de la montaña"; the fourth with "Los llanos y las selvas"; and the fifth with "Árboles del paisaje boliviano." It is obvious that the author has fallen definitely under the spell of the new school of interpretation of Bolivian life: the thesis that man is a product of his environment. It must be admitted that this new school of interpretation has in Bolivia an excellent study. And Señor Ávila has made the most of his theme. The author insists that there are four *paisajes* in Bolivia and that each one of the four corresponds to the four races that created Bolivia. The fusion of these four ethnological elements has produced *el nuevo Indio* and *la cultura neo-Andina*. The author places great emphasis upon *la Andina* as the region of the greatest importance. He holds that there are in reality only two fundamental *paisajes* in the country: *la montaña* and *la llanura*. The most important thus far is *la montaña*. This region contains only about a third of the total area, or some thirty per cent of the total, while *la llanura* contains about two-thirds, or some seventy per cent of the total surface. *La montaña*, on the other hand, contains more than 2,800,000 out of the 3,000,000 people of the country, leaving only some 125,000 for *la llanura*. Señor Ávila concludes:

He ahí por qué hemos repetido insistentemente que Bolivia es y fue un país montañoso por antonomasia y precisamente de altas montañas. Pero como las tierras bajas del norte y del oriente, son, no sólo las más grandes en extensión, sino que guardan en su seno riquezas que pronto substituirán a los veneros metalíferos que, algún día tienen que extinguirse, la Bolivia andina tendrá forzosamente que ceder su paso a la Bolivia posterior, próximo escenario de la historia y la cultura del porvenir.

The book is printed on fairly good paper, but is bound only in paper. It has footnotes and an index. The style is excellent and adds much to the value of the whole work.

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