

Ostensibly the book is a biography of one of the great figures of Brazilian history. In reality it concentrates attention and space on the two four-year periods in which José Bonifácio played a decisive role. Those two periods came late in life after he had finished an active career in the field of science and education.

José Bonifácio left Brazil in 1783 when he was twenty years of age; he graduated in philosophy and law at Coimbra in the late 1780's and travelled throughout Europe and studied at various universities on a government pension from 1790 to 1800. He held government posts in Portugal until 1819 when now fifty-six years of age he at last returned to Brazil. He was in France and Germany during the decade of the French Revolution and in Portugal during the Napoleonic period. To these fifty-six years of his life, the author devotes seventy-seven sketchy pages.

More than half of the book is concentrated on the next four years of his life. He returned a noted scholar and scientist seeking retirement in Santos. He became, instead, minister of state and of foreign affairs, the man who shaped and guided the independence movement through its early years. In 1823 he was exiled by the Portuguese faction which had driven him from office. He returned in July, 1829, on the eve of the second revolution which ousted Pedro and his Portuguese backers. From April, 1831, to December, 1833, he served as the tutor to the young Pedro II. The new generation of Brazilians who feared that his authoritarian centralist policy would be perpetuated through his influence over the impressionable young prince forced his retirement and kept him under house arrest. He died in 1838.

Quite obviously the story of Bonifácio's life is worth telling, but it is equally obvious that the task of the biographer will be most difficult. This volume is not that biography—it does not pretend to be—but it does have the rare merit of accomplishing the purpose for which it was written. Through the enterprise of the Fondo, a clear and sound story of the two major steps by which Brazil achieved independence is made available to the reading public of Mexico.

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*História da política exterior do Brasil.* 1º Tomo. (1500-1825.) *Do período colonial ao reconhecimento do império.* By RENATO DE MENDONÇA. [Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, Publicação No. 73.] (México: Editorial Cultura, 1945. Pp. 212. Maps, illustrations. Paper.)

This volume is the first of three projected by Senhor Renato de Mendonça which will survey Brazil's foreign relations to the year 1942.

Despite the dates given, which indicate coverage of a span of over three centuries, the present volume really begins with the treaty of 1750, by which Spain and Portugal discarded the obsolete Tordesillas agreement and re-defined their South American boundaries. This, the author feels, marks the emergence of Brazil in its present approximate geographical shape. During the previous era, which Senhor de Mendonça calls the "Portuguese" period, Brazil had not taken form, at least from the point of view of official recognition. Lip service to the long out-moded Tordesillas treaty had not exactly checked Brazilian expansion but had prevented that expansion from having any basis in international agreement.

In 1750 the "Brazilian" period began, when the Iberian governments abandoned the line of demarcation idea and arranged for boundaries consistent with the real historical forces at work in South America. Though later modified in some details, the treaty was fundamentally sound and assured Brazil of a splendid future. Subsequent territorial adjustments and disputes have been largely the aftermath of this basic settlement, which assigned the Amazon to Brazil and the Río de la Plata to Spanish America.

The later subjects covered by Senhor de Mendonça include the resumption of rivalry with Spain, and subsequently with Argentina and Uruguay, over the Río de la Plata, the economic effects of the migration of the Braganças to Brazil in 1807, the occupation of French Guiana in 1809, the intrigues of Carlota Joaquina with the Buenos Aires politicians, and the recognition of Brazilian independence after 1822 by the United States, England, and Portugal. De Mendonça follows the lead of Oliveira Lima in regarding João VI as a considerable statesman, despite his obvious weaknesses, and feels that his policies succeeded, even though this king lived to witness the separation of Brazil from Portugal.

Some light is thrown on rather obscure episodes, such as the importance to Brazil of the temporary occupation of French Guiana (1809-1817) because of valuable botanical importations from the French colony. De Mendonça also points out the fact that the idea of raising Brazil to the status of a kingdom in 1815 originated with Talleyrand at the Congress of Vienna.

Since this work is a publication of the Instituto Panamericano, it is somewhat dedicated to the idea of Western Hemisphere solidarity. Friendship for the United States pervades the volume, as well as gratitude for this country's priority in recognizing Brazilian independence, though the author acknowledges that British recognition was more important at the time.

This makes no pretense of being a work of original research. De Mendonça leans heavily on previous Brazilian historians; notably Manoel Oliveira Lima, Capistrano de Abreu, and Pandiá Calogeras. Nevertheless, there is some originality of interpretation. The style is popular and entertaining. A few slips occur, such as the reference to William Pitt the Younger as "Lord Pitt" (p. 64) and the implication, though without a specific statement, that he was directing British policy somewhat after 1806, the year of his death.

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*Rio-Branco (O Barão do Rio-Branco), 1845-1912.* By ALVARO LINS. [Coleção documentos brasileiros, 50 and 50-A.] (São Paulo: Livraria José Olympio Editora, 1945. 2 vols. Pp. xiv, 801. Illustrations. Paper.)

Alvaro Lins, Brazilian critic, editor, and journalist, turns historian to give to the Brazilian people the life story of one of their greatest statesmen, a story which commemorates the hundredth anniversary of the birth of José Maria da Silva Paranhos Júnior, Barão do Rio-Branco. The two-volume work is a semi-official publication, for the author wrote the biography at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Relations. He requested, however, that his project should not have any official character and that he should have complete freedom in work and in interpretation.

The first volume of the biography treats of the life of the famous baron up to 1902 when he accepted the post of foreign minister in the administration of Rodrigues Alves; the second volume tells the story of the climactic period of the baron's career until his death in 1912.

The young Paranhos spent his formative years under the influence of his illustrious father, the Visconde do Rio-Branco; thus from childhood "Juca Paranhos saw at close hand the great people of the Empire, the celebrities of the times, the glories of the period, generals, admirals, ministers, and heads of cabinets." After his formal schooling in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, he spent much of his time in the study of history and in following a career of journalism.

With ample academic training, with his experience as a journalist, and with the knowledge acquired as a deputy and as a secretary to a diplomatic mission, Juca Paranhos was ready for a brilliant future. Yet when the time came, he almost failed to obtain his first important appointment. His Bohemian tastes and his affair with the actress, Marie Stevens, whom he later married, were factors which influenced the emperor, Dom Pedro II, to refuse the proposed appointment. In 1876,