

of the principal forts of the city itself. Despite the persistent efforts of the diplomatic corps to bring about a settlement, there were six days of savage fighting, with the city under constant bombardment, before the dictator finally surrendered. He was held a prisoner in Guatemala City until his death in 1924.

Señor Arévalo's lively account of these events, and his penetrating comments, make the latter part of the book an absorbingly interesting study of Latin-American political psychology and political methods. Its value to the student is increased by Dr. Julio Bianchi's thoughtful preface, which discusses some of the fundamental problems which Guatemala faces in any effort to establish democratic government.

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*El pensamiento económico latinoamericano.* By LUIS ROQUE GONDRA, VICTOR PAZ ESTENSORO, LUIS NOGUEIRA DE PAULA, CARLOS KELLER R., GERARDO PORTELA, ETIENNE D. CHARLIER, SILVIO MALDONADO, EMILIO ROMERO. (Mexico: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1945. Pp. 333. Paper.)

In this volume eight authors discuss the economic thought of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Haiti, Paraguay, and Peru. A second volume will cover the other twelve countries, though the editor confesses that "as yet individuals to write the studies on Ecuador, Central America and Panama have not been found." English and Portuguese editions are in preparation.

It is instructive to observe the different ways in which eight authors construed the nature of the task assigned them. In varying proportions each contribution represents a blend of economic history and the history of economics. Both in form and in content the work differs from the history of Gide and Rist and other standard texts in historical economics. Since Latin America has not produced a Say, a Malthus, a Marx, or any writer with comparable influence upon the world stream of economic ideas, it would be unprofitable and perhaps unfair to compare the present collection of essays with the best histories of English, German, and French political economy. For Latin America, until the most recent decades, the limitations of the division of labor have channeled economic thinking in the direction of pressing national problems; and economists have been more often administrators than academicians.

Manuel Belgrano, to whom Roque Gondra devotes almost half the twenty-seven pages on Argentine economics, offers a case in point. A lawyer by profession and the industrious secretary of the Consulado of Buenos Aires, Belgrano set out to destroy the trade monopoly which

was strangling the agricultural development of the Río de la Plata. Having recommended to the viceroy the opening of Buenos Aires to British trade, he saw his proposal become a reality in 1809; and in other ways his ideas presaged developments in the early life of the Argentine nation. But Belgrano's greatest achievement was to transfuse into the decrepit body of colonial culture the fresh and challenging ideas inspired in him by European economists and philosophers.

In his chapter on Brazilian economics Nogueira de Paula presents a *mélange* of economic materials. Following a short discussion of European influences upon Brazilian thought in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, he takes up the writings of Azevedo Coutinho and Silva Lisboa, "the precursors of economic science in Brazil." A section on the first centers of instruction in economics contains a dozen sketches of nineteenth-century professors of economics; and the chapter ends with a series of notes on post-1900 courses of instruction and bibliography. Although reference is made to the "cultural work of President Getulio Vargas," the author makes little effort to show how economists influenced, or were influenced by, economic developments.

The discussion of Cuban economics, which forms the longest chapter in the book, follows an entirely different pattern. Three periods are established—1762-1818, 1818-1868, and 1868-1899—and for each period Portela examines first "the facts" and then "the ideas." The material is fresh and interesting and the exposition lucid. It is perhaps regrettable that the chapter *ends* with the colonial period.

In contrast with the chapter on Cuba, Emilio Romero in his study of Peruvian economics has skillfully interlaced a web of economic ideas onto the framework of the principal developments in Peru's economy. Like Manuel Pardo, "one of the most brilliant finance ministers of Peru," most economists were created by circumstances, and the needs of the country quickly absorbed them into ministerial and executive positions. Romero (now Senator Romero) follows the ebb and flow of liberalism, signaling the different interpretations of *laissez faire* with changing conditions. Some of the most trenchant observations are dressed in felicitous phraseology. Thus: "A country which produced such a potent fertilizer as guano couldn't support pessimistic doctrines like those of Malthus, especially since guano, with its fertilizing power, was an argument against his conclusions on the scarcity of food." Recent trends are only lightly touched. Referring to the reaction from the period of forty years in which Peru "lived on the indexes of exports and the stock market quotations of Liverpool and New York," Romero emphasizes the delusion of the balance of trade, "because small sums remain in the country, in salaries and wages, from the great industries of

copper and petroleum"—all of which has the earmarks of substituting one form of mercantilist thinking for another.

The fields of Latin-American economic history and economics are still open and inviting. The present parcel of essays establishes many useful landmarks and suggests attractive trails to follow, but it should rob no one of the stimulus to pursue both types of research beyond the established boundaries.

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*El movimiento obrero latinoamericano.* By MOISÉS POBLETE TRONCOSO. [Colección Tierra Firme, 17.] (Mexico: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1946. Pp. 296. Paper.)

The first general history of trade-unionism in Hispanic America to be published comes from the pen of one who has followed its development for many years and is perhaps best equipped to write it. Nevertheless, the work in many ways is disappointing. The historian of trade-unionism in Hispanic America faces a tough job, because the raw materials with which he must work are either entirely missing or can be obtained only with the greatest difficulty. When passing judgment upon any work dealing with the subject, this must be taken into consideration. However, the inadequacies of the volume under review do not stem entirely from this fact.

In the introduction, the author states that the volume falls into three parts. Part one is devoted to an examination of different trade-union tendencies; part two, to a review of the legal status of unionism in Hispanic America; part three, to sketches of the history of trade-unionism in each country. Actually, the work is divided into six chapters, with the bulk of the material concentrated in chapter three (193 pages). This chapter deals with the development of unionism in each Latin-American republic except Haiti and Honduras. In addition, the volume includes chapters on inter-American trade-union relations, particularly as represented by the Pan-American Federation of Labor and the Latin-American Confederation of Workers, generally known as CTAL (Confederación de Trabajadores de América Latina), on the International Labor Office and its work in connection with the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively, and on the unions in the post-war world. There is also included a selected bibliography.

The discussions on trade-unionism in each country are characterized by extreme unevenness. The best section in the book is the one devoted to the development of unionism in Chile. Here the author speaks with the assurance and authority based upon more than twenty years of