

logical approach. North Americans are too prone to make unfavorable comparisons of conditions in other countries with those in the United States without considering the handicaps with which people like those of the Caribbean states are contending. "American politicians constantly offend the pride of the Latin American by contemptuous and irresponsible allusion." On the other hand, politicians in the Caribbean countries are too often not above appealing to prejudice and mistrust for their own partisan advantage, and an intense sensitiveness about national independence makes propaganda of this sort the more effective. Professor Perkins clearly feels that the elimination of such obstacles to coöperation will be a slow and difficult matter, but he is cautiously optimistic on this point, as he is on other questions connected with the future of the Caribbean states.

DANA G. MUNRO.

Princeton University.

*The Cultural Approach: Another Way in International Relations.* By RUTH EMILY McMURRY and MUNA LEE. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1947. Pp. xi, 280. \$3.50.)

In such a field as international cultural relations, where idealistic talk and fine theories—with an occasional bit of pure humbug—have been the rule, it is refreshing to find such a book as this which deals with a highly significant aspect of international affairs in an objective, documented, and relatively detached manner. Those who are looking for chatty anecdotes about the "thrilling" life abroad of a cultural-relations attaché or high-pressure enthusiasm in favor of the cultural brotherhood of mankind will not care much for this study. The serious historian of international relations will find it a valuable compendium of facts.

Aside from a brief introductory chapter in which "cultural relations" are accurately defined and an equally brief summary chapter, this volume is entirely given over to a chronological description of the cultural-relations programs of France, Great Britain, Germany, the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, and four Latin-American republics. In each case the direct source material is nearly always official publications of the countries in question, generally the records of parliamentary proceedings and budgetary debates. Although the authors may occasionally have made too abundant use of official statements where triteness is more evident than new facts, the documentation is careful and full of pertinent material generally well integrated in the study.

While the authors have specifically excluded from consideration detailed study of war-time "information" programs or "ideological prop-

aganda," some description of such activities, especially in the case of Germany, Japan, and Russia, was bound to form a part of the survey. And it is in these chapters where the investigators' dispassionate objectivity is most apparent. Although the temptation must have been great to do so, no attempt is made to appraise, criticize or make political judgments of any sort. Perhaps this is the more remarkable in that neither of the authors is a professional historian and both are well-known in Washington as convinced proponents of a non-propagandistic type of cultural-relations program.

The only defect, if indeed it is a defect, which this reviewer could mention concerning this informative study is that it gives no adequate idea of the practical and more-or-less technical problems involved in international cultural-relations work. Such a lack is inevitable in the nature of the source material, which naturally stresses general aims and plans on the one hand, and net statistical accomplishments on the other. To a much greater extent than is obvious in this study the real results and final influence of governmental cultural relations work are determined by somewhat intangible factors which do not appear in official documents. The difficulty of finding tactful, intelligent, and linguistically prepared personnel for service abroad, and the shifting labyrinth of bureaucratic responsibilities, for example, have hindered the complete success of our Department of State's efforts fully as much as short-sighted Congressional appropriations. It has been common experience that the results of official cultural relations must be weighed in very delicate balances. The personal ineptitude or gaucheness of one cultural envoy can almost nullify the imposing statistics of so many books distributed or so many language classes offered!

The authors did not propose to discuss, except in passing, the potentially fruitful work of UNESCO or the significant contributions of private organizations in the international cultural field. Development of both or either of these avenues to international understanding is an important alternative to the present concept of official, national programs of cultural relations and should be considered in connection with the static picture presented in *The Cultural Approach*.

Of particular interest to those concerned with Latin America is the chapter devoted to the official cultural programs of Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico. The activities outlined are one more indication of the increasing divergencies among the Latin-American nations, as well as of the emergent struggle for cultural domination within the Hemisphere.

JOHN T. REID.

University of California at Los Angeles.