

scholars. Rather, the author seems to have leaned heavily upon the work of scholars of the United States for the more solid sections of his work.

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The Army Air Forces in World War II. Volume One, Plans and Early Operations January 1939 to August 1942. Prepared under the editorship of WESLEY FRANK CRAVEN, JAMES LEA CATE by OFFICE OF AIR FORCE HISTORY. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1948. Pp. xxxi, 788. Maps, Illustrations. \$5.00.)

The projected work here begun, to be published in seven volumes, is conceived as "the story of our national effort exerted through the Army air arm." Altogether, this experiment in coöperative historical research and writing under semi-official supervision has commenced quite successfully. The ten authors combining to write this first volume were chosen for their competence in historical scholarship and close association with the Historical Office of the Air Force during World War II. A declaration is made in the foreword that responsibility for accuracy and completeness belongs to the editors and the authors, not to the Army Air Force or its Historical Office; however, this sort of work cannot be considered completely independent because of the intimate relationship which nonetheless exists between those responsible for the book and its subject. A definite advantage in this history is the editors' access to important source material: files of the Air Force offices, Air Force unit histories, captured enemy documents, interviews with staff personnel, and records of enemy interrogation. Other materials such as diaries, published documents, and the newspaper and periodical press have been utilized also.

Hemisphere defense is a problem which receives much scattered reference but meets with no satisfactory analysis as a political concept or in military strategy. Lack of arms limited practical defense nearly to the continental boundaries of the United States until after 1939. If the term means anything, hemisphere defense was not achieved until after it was outmoded both politically and technically. Even before 1941, United States grand strategy was directing the flow of arms to Europe as a better means of defense than building a hemispheric fortress and, militarily, hemisphere defense meant a "defense in depth" of the South American continent. Until after 1941 the defense of the western approaches to the hemisphere was limited only to planning for the Alaska-Hawaii-Panama triangle. Enemy attacks in 1941 and 1942 were made before hemisphere defense had gone much beyond the plan-

ning stage. The Air Force estimated that an enemy could attack nearly any point of the whole coastline and U. S. forces were held in reserve for the security of northeastern Brazil in case of possible invasion. Dangerous lags in the Panama defense were not solved until 1943 and the Battle of the Atlantic with German submarines during 1942 (particularly intense off British Guiana) endangered the whole Atlantic strategy which aimed at fighting the war near the homeland of the enemy.

After a valuable survey of Army Air Force infancy from World War I until 1939, the bulk of this volume is a detailed narrative history of the Air Force through a little more than three and a half years from January, 1939 to August, 1942. The pre-war period was one of planning, expansion, and competition with the other armed services. The early war period was one of accelerated expansion and discouragingly few tactical successes. Pearl Harbor, the Philippines campaign, the East Indies, Coral Sea, Midway, and the Battle of the Atlantic all found the Air Force in insufficient strength; and the A.A.F. was unable to prove, save by examples of enemy successes, that air power could be decisive. The volume ends with the first small aerial offensive launched against Germany from Britain in August 1942, less than a year after Pearl Harbor. The Army Air Force was firmly convinced of the value of strategic bombing and this offensive was in line with a carefully conceived strategic concept mapped out in the middle of 1941. The authors are to be commended for maintaining high standards of scholarship and not using this volume to support any protagonist.

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Who's Who in Latin America. Part VI, Brazil. Edited by RONALD HILTON. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1948. Pp. xix, 269. \$3.50.)

Issuance of this invaluable guide in parts tends to cut down the gap between the date of collection of the material and the date of publication, with consequent increase in useful up-to-dateness. Inevitably, there are some omissions, but editor and publisher deserve praise and thanks. Foreword by Ambassador Carlos Martins; short biographical sketches of Percy Martin, by Gilberto Freyre, and John Casper Branner, by Francisco Venâncio Filho.

A. M.

Most of the World: The Peoples of Africa, Latin America, and the East Today. Edited by RALPH LINTON. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1949. Pp. 917. \$5 50.)

Most of the world in area, population, resources and in political and technological potentiality is not encompassed within the immediate