

The author is optimistic for the future of Colombia, fixes democracy through federative government as the only avenue by which the main spiritual and material tendencies of Colombia can be reconciled, returns many times to praise the Liberator's vision of *Gran Colombia*, and suggests Colombia as an eventual member of a Caribbean federation.

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*Puerto Rico's Economic Future, a Study in Planned Development.*

By HARVEY S. PERLOFF. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1950. Pp. xviii, 436. Illustrations. \$4.75.)

Puerto Rico, whose population, according to Dr. Perloff, probably has the highest rate of increase in the world, may also be distinctive for the rate at which studies of its problems appear. This latest one by a distinguished professor of the social sciences at the University of Chicago is by all odds the most thorough and comprehensive. The statistical data presented are extensive, embracing all such basic elements of the island's economy as population pressures, employment, income, external trade, agriculture, and recent industrial development. The analyses of the problems these give rise to are searching. The author has, in fact, tackled and accomplished a piece of work usually held too formidable for one individual and assigned to a commission. His achievement is impressive. It is not lessened by the fact that any student of Puerto-Rican affairs has access to the minds and studies of a brilliant group of native sociologists and economists—one of the island's singular assets to which Dr. Perloff pays tribute.

Dr. Perloff has, of course, no pat answers. He recognizes that solutions must come from a vast coördination of efforts touching all aspects of the economy. Here, however, he raises questions that go beyond Puerto Rico. The problems of the island do not stem solely from an unfavorable ratio between population and resources. They arise also from the fact that an aspiring people refuses to accept standards of living that in the past, given such a ratio, would have been held inevitable. This surge for improvement exists not only in Puerto Rico but increasingly in Latin America. Dr. Perloff's analyses—as the subtitle of the book indicates—revolve constantly around the idea of planning, extensive and comprehensive planning that provides the well-balanced and not sporadic attack on the island's problems. Seeing that in Latin America we find many of the same problems and

aspirations as in Puerto Rico—indeed, Puerto Rico in some ways is almost a case study for certain areas in Latin America—one wonders to what extent progress in economically retarded regions must be through the planned economy. The question is of interesting implications, particularly as in our Pan-American relations we seem to stand as advocates of a democracy strongly correlated to those modified aspects of *laissez faire* we call free enterprise.

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*La Sainte Alliance, organization de la paix mondiale*, Vol. I, *Les traités de paix, 1814-1815*; Vol. II, *La rivalité anglo-russe et le compris autrichien, 1815-1818*. By JACQUES-HENRI PIRENNE. (Neuchâtel, Switzerland: Editions de la Baconnière, 1946-1949.)

Fresh light on the increasingly important role of the United States in world politics during the critical period of European reconstruction after Napoleon's overthrow is shed in the course of this work by a young Belgian historian, Jacques-Henri Pirenne. His book has been published in Switzerland recently in French, and such has been its success that an English translation is being prepared to appear shortly in New York and London. Jacques-Henri Pirenne belongs to the third generation of a distinguished family of Belgian historians. His grandfather, Henri Pirenne, Belgium's national historian, is famed for his history of that country from the Middle Ages to the French Revolution, as well as for his research into the effect on Europe of the Arab conquest of the southern Mediterranean area. His father, Jacques Pirenne, secretary to King Leopold III, made his mark in the historical field with his brilliant studies of Egyptian law and religion, and has won recent renown by a major work, *The Great Currents of World History*, embodying results of his protracted investigation into the conflicting trends, continental and maritime, assumed by power-patterns throughout the ages.

Jacques-Henri Pirenne makes his début with a solidly documented inquiry into the basic purposes of the two main systems of collective security and peace put forward by the European great powers after the collapse of Napoleon's empire. His inquiry extends into the field of the practical working of these two systems during the drawing-up of the peace treaties and the subsequent three-year period of European adjustment. The first of these two systems was the Quadruple Alliance, sponsored by Britain in the spring of 1814 as a war-time