

The Last Conquistadores. By WILLIAM COLUMBUS DAVIS. (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1950. Pp. ix, 386. End maps, bibliography, index. \$5.00.)

It is somewhat surprising that this book was not sooner written, for the series of events which it treats constituted a challenge to the Monroe Doctrine and was a matter of importance in the history of the Pacific countries of South America. The author is to be commended for the fact that he has added a significant element to the mosaic of Latin-American history as constructed by scholars of the United States.

Mr. Davis interprets the Spanish adventure in the South Pacific as due, chiefly, to Spanish internal politics related to the struggle between the Union Liberal Party of General O'Donnell and the Moderate Party of General Narváez. His analysis of Spain's chaotic domestic state is a necessary and valuable prelude to his examination of the course of the intervention in America. Spain's temporary reoccupation of Santo Domingo and participation in the Mexican adventure with France and England are made parts of the general policy which led to difficulties with Peru and Chile.

In this examination of the activities of "the last conquistadores" Spain does not come off very well. The author does not, perhaps, feel animus against Spain, but he makes very clear his belief that there was no justification whatever for Spain's actions in the South Pacific. The work is so well documented that the reader will with difficulty find grounds for disagreement.

Spain proved itself quite "modern" when the government used an upside-down dictionary and called the affair a "triumph," despite the fact that the result was total failure.

The author has used archival materials in the United States, but those emanating from Spain and South America were examined only through printed primary and secondary works. The general effect is marred by the author's fondness for clichés, "foul work afoot" (p. 14), "parting of the ways" (p. 17); and by the too-frequent appearance of stilted or involved sentences, or an inexact choice of words. However, these do not detract from the historical validity of the work.

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Archivo de don Bernardo O'Higgins. Vols. IV-VII. Edited by RICARDO DONOSO, JAIME EYZAGUIRRE, GUILLERMO FELIÚ CRUZ, EUGENIO PEREIRA SALAS, and LUIS VALENCIA AVARIA. [Archivo Nacional de Chile.] (Santiago de Chile: Imprenta Universitaria, 1948-1950. Pp. 350, 321, 368, 383. Frontispieces, indexes. Paper.)

The Archivo Nacional de Chile has recently added four more volumes to its admirable set of documents pertaining to the life and times