

meticulously and critically surveyed the works of Humboldt that relate to his 11-month sojourn in Mexico. The analysis is based in part on a step-by-step retracing of the routes traveled by the great man, from Acapulco to Mexico City, thence to the mines of Guanajuato and Pachuca and to the then new, Paricutín-like Volcán de Jorullo in Michoacán, and finally to Puebla, Jalapa and Vera Cruz, comparing the present scene with that described by Humboldt. The result is a balanced and perceptive, if at times tedious, critique of Humboldt's contribution to our understanding of the Mexican land and people, especially as this is represented in the *Ensayo político sobre el reino de la Nueva España*. Stevens considers Humboldt's work under the conventional systematic subdivisions of geography, including cartography, geology (land forms), climatology, biogeography and human geography, with considerable emphasis on the last. A concluding chapter treats of the German scientist's important influence on the development of later geographic thought and of geography as a separate field of study. The *Ensayo político* is seen as the prototype of the regional monographs of modern geographers, especially those that employ the comparative and historical method in the interpretation of the cultural landscape.

This is an interesting and useful work. It should be noted, however, that the bibliography of Humboldt's writings and Humboldt biographies that is found at the end is quite incomplete, being especially deficient in German titles and in English-language translations.

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*Vida del Mariscal Jorge Robledo*. By EMILIO ROBLEDÓ. Prologue by ENRIQUE OTERO D'OSTA. Bogotá, 1955. Ministerio de Educación Nacional. Biblioteca de Autores Colombianos, 100. Illustrations. Index. Pp. xxiii, 508. Paper.

Marshal Jorge Robledo emerges in this sympathetic biography as a most uncommon conquistador. Arriving in the Indies in 1528 in the expedition of Pedro de Alvarado, he subsequently served under Sebastián de Belalcázar in the conquest of Quito and in the founding of Cali and Popayán. In 1539 he undertook the pacification of the valley of the Cauca River below Cali, founding Anserma (1539), Cartago (1540), and Antioquia (1541).

Basing his study on contemporary chronicles and on hitherto unpublished documents, the author presents Robledo as tolerant and patient, solicitous for the welfare of the Indians, and unusually adept

in employing persuasion and peaceful friendship to advance his work of pacification. As a man of "habitual calm," he appears to have been admirably fitted for the routine but important tasks of city establishment. The author, in fact, is struck by the parallel between this Colombian "father of cities" and the better known Pedro de Valdivia of Chile. Those prone to stereotype the conquerors as a brutal, inordinately ambitious, and unruly lot, will find it difficult to make Robledo fit the pattern.

The scene of his activity, midway between Cartagena and Peru, placed him in a twilight zone of ill-defined boundaries and grants of authority and embroiled him in a bitter jurisdictional dispute forcing a defense of his rights in the Cauca valley against the rival claims of both Alfonso de Heredia and Belalcázar. While a trip to Spain to enlist the support of the emperor gave Robledo a victory in his *proceso* against Heredia and won for him the title of Marshal, a return to the Cauca valley in 1546 culminated in his summary execution at the hands of Belalcázar on the pretext of a usurpation of authority. Thus, ironically, this mild man fell victim to the immoderate ambition and legalistic proclivities of his more turbulent fellow conquerors. Documentary material touching Robledo's *proceso* against Heredia and taken from the Archivo General de Indias, Sevilla, is included in a lengthy appendix.

Two preliminary chapters are of interest for the author's views on the Spanish imperial ideal and concept of colonization. He argues that a broad policy of assimilation and institutional transfer rather than the narrower factory-fortress ideal characterized Spanish thinking in the sixteenth century and achieved expression in Robledo's work in the Cauca valley. A chapter devoted to a description of native customs at the time of the conquest is based on a valuable account left by Robledo and supplemented by the author's modern studies in Colombian ethnology. Brief biographical notes on 126 companions of Robledo make up the final chapter.

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#### AFTER 1830

*Communism in Latin America.* By ROBERT J. ALEXANDER. New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1957. Rutgers University Press. Index. Pp. x, 449. \$9.00.

The author of this book has spent portions of each year since 1946 in Latin America and has interviewed many of the men of whom he writes, such as Earl Browder, Vicente Lombardo Toledano, and V. R.