

a part of Ray Stannard Baker. The result is a fairly good but not exciting 217-page synthesis which adds virtually nothing to either interpretation or readily available information. Part Two begins in the same vein, with Breceda as the principal source, and ends on an equivocal note based upon Palomares. The heavy dependence on polemical literature has led the author to such patent errors as an estimate of over 700 United States troops killed at Veracruz. Between the first and final portions of Part Two, however, Fabela has put to good use documents available to him from his own collection.

His handling of the diplomatic story of early 1914 is stimulating and rewarding. Carranza's attempts to force the European nations to extend unofficial recognition to the existence of the Constitutionalists has been outlined in previous writings, but Fabela brings lucidity and cogency to the subject. Furthermore, he argues persuasively that Carranza actually had as an objective the undermining of the basic tenets of the Monroe Doctrine and its Roosevelt Corollary. Here Fabela is at his best. But in this section he is also at his most inconsistent: while decrying both in principle and in practice United States intervention, he casts strictures on the Wilson government for not having given greater aid to the revolution in 1913 and early 1914.

The reviewer anxiously looks forward to the second volume, covering the much more acrimonious period of 1917-1920.

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¡De la dictadura a la anarquía! Apuntes para la historia política de México durante los últimos cuarenta y tres años (1871-1913). By RAMON PRIDA. Preliminary note by Lic. JOAQUÍN MÉNDEZ RIVAS. Mexico City, 1958. Ediciones Botas. Appendix. Pp. 685. Paper.

Here is found the second edition of a notable book that traces Mexican history from the entrance of Porfirio

Díaz into the political arena through the landing of American forces at Veracruz in 1914. Ramón Prida was a prominent lawyer in Mexico City during Porfirian times, closely associated with the *científicos* and, according to the Casasola Archives, a member of the Reelectionist Club that supported Díaz for the presidency in 1910.

Driven into exile during the revolutionary period, Prida had this extensive work published in two volumes by the *Imprenta de "El Paso del Norte"* in El Paso, Texas, when Mexico indeed seemed reduced to anarchy. The judgments of Prida are generally pessimistic, with critical attacks on each and every one of the leaders for bringing on the revolutionary catastrophe.

General Bernardo Reyes is characterized, for example, as a traitorous, ambitious intriguer—the one most responsible for destroying the Porfirian peace, while Limantour is egotistical and incompetent. Among the revolutionary chiefs, Zapata is portrayed as a rough adventurer, seeking only vengeance, and without any program whatsoever until Professor Montaña gave him the Plan of Ayala.

Prida understands the importance of the agrarian problem in bringing on the Revolution, but advocates only halfway solutions without calling for the break up of large estates to create *la pequeña propiedad*. Students of the Mexican Revolution will welcome this reprint of a rare and well documented work.

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Historia militar de la revolución constitucionalista. Segunda Parte. Tomo IV. El desarrollo de la revolución y las operaciones de desgaste. (De julio a diciembre de 1913). Anexos. By MIGUEL A. SÁNCHEZ LAMEGO. Mexico City, 1957. Instituto Nacional de Estudios Históricos de la Revolución Mexicana. Pp. 610. Paper.

Once again Sr. Sánchez has compiled considerable material in the form of

letters and telegrams taken from the historical archives of the *Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional*. These *anexos* of Part IV supplement the documents of Part III and cover the military operations of the Mexican Revolution from July to December, 1913. This volume, although not always as clear, orderly, compact, or correlated as the preceding work, will surely help future investigation and critical evaluation of this turbid period. The author does, however, provide a very useful note which identifies the general nature of each dispatch.

This sprawling compilation of scattered pieces contains a variety of scenes and impressions which form a vague pattern of chronic difficulties in military matters, personnel, and administration. From the outset the trend is established—the dispatches reveal a gradually lowering federalist *esprit de corps* as the darkening shadows of ultimate defeat converge on the *huertista* camp.

LUIS MORTON, JR.

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Mexican Journal 'The Conquerors Conquered.' By SELDEN RODMAN. New York, 1958. The Devin-Adair Co. Photographs. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 298. Cloth. \$6.00.

Among serious students of contemporary Mexico, this journal of the late 1956 and early 1957 Mexican experiences of a perceptive, art-minded American has value only for the art historian. Weak on Mexico, it concentrates on art. In a kaleidoscopic series of conversational portraits, the art-immersed author offers much on painters and painting, a little on architecture, less on literature, and nothing on music. As mortar for his bricks on art, Rodman trowels in tidbits about his bull-fighting wife, Acapulco hotels, dysentery-ridden companions, and other trivia. Thirty-two pages of illustrations, infrequent passages of poetic prose, and rare insights into the Mexican enrich the book; glib generalizations and numerous errors of fact, re-

vealing gross ignorance of Mexican history, impoverish the performance. More than half of the volume is a skillfully contrived record—impressionistic, disconnected, and repetitive—of such men as Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros, Tamayo, Covarrubias, Goitia, Atl, and Mérida, with blunt asides about unmet politicians and with thumbnail summations of ill-understood intellectuals. Much of the inadequacy of this art-lover's interpretation of Mexico derives from overweening dependence upon a narrow and far from dispassionate sector of Mexico City society.

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México; História dum a viagem. By ERICO VERÍSSIMO. Porto Alegre, 1957. Editôra Globo. Bibliography. Pp. 299. Paper.

This account of a brief sojourn in Mexico covers familiar ground. The author takes us from the border to Mexico City and back again to the Rio Grande. Included in the itinerary are such inevitable places as Tlaxcala, Cholula, Puebla, Taxco, Cuernavaca, Toluca, Teotihuacán. The features of the Mexican scene that hold his interest are likewise fairly standard—Indians, folkways, churches, markets, taxi drivers, mural painting, etc. And like many a traveler before him, Veríssimo does not resist the urge to retell the early history of the Aztecs and their conquest by the Spaniards.

Nevertheless this is an unusual book, for Veríssimo writes about these time-worn subjects with the genial scepticism, tolerance and humor that characterize his famous novels. He appraises Mexico from the standpoint of a Brazilian deeply conscious of his own culture and of another he knows almost equally well—that of the United States. From his preoccupation with cultural values emerges the conclusion that Mexico is a "world of magic," the United States a "world of logic," and his native Brazil the land where magic and logic may eventually fuse to produce the ideal synthesis. What-