

lem of mine ownership, application of New Spain's *Real Ordenanza de Minería* to Venezuela since 1784, juridical character of petroleum concessions, juridical character of mining and petroleum taxes, and juridical situation of the state and petroleum companies with respect to general taxes.

The author's method is to introduce each aspect with an introductory discussion of the principal issues involved. He then traces, and interprets, the evolution of Venezuelan law with respect to these issues. Finally, he ends each treatise with critical evaluations and conclusions.

The major theme of the book is defense of the nation's interests. The three principal obstacles thereto, according to the author, have been the absence, until 1943, of a unified system of petroleum legislation, the abuse of duty-exemption privileges by the concessionaires, and the difficulties in obtaining a larger share of the profits of the oil companies. The first and second problems have been resolved through bilateral agreements between the Venezuelan government and the foreign oil companies, but the third has been handled arbitrarily by the unilateral action of the State, initially by the "40-50" tax decree of 1946 and just recently by the "60-40" decree of 1958.

Whether or not one agrees with Professor González Miranda's rather nationalistic approach, one has to agree that he has produced a volume that will be received with interest by historians, lawyers, and oilmen alike.

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BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND REFERENCE WORK

Atlas van Zuid-Amerika. By W. J. VAN BALEN. Amsterdam, Brussels, 1957. Elsevier-Uitgave. Maps. Photographs. Index to the photographs. Pp. 230. Cloth.

This is a very good, popular, descriptive work on South America. It is not,

properly speaking, an atlas, but rather a beautifully illustrated text summary of the history and economy of the South American countries. There is an introductory section on the geology, climate, and natural vegetation. The maps of these features are highly generalized, and a fourth map purporting to show the fauna includes pictures of animals on a map background. This is followed by sections on the pre-Columbian peoples, the European settlement, the historical development of the colonies, the story of the nations since independence, and the cultural development of the various countries. The larger part of the book is devoted to descriptions of the different South American countries.

The book is beautifully illustrated with new and striking photographs. The maps, however, are small-scale and highly generalized. The economic maps show the names of major crops printed over a hypsometric base—which may be satisfactory for a popular book, but for the professional geographer is inexcusably inaccurate.

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Bibliografia del P. Miguel Batllori, S.J. By G. M. BERTINI. Turin, 1957. Arcsal. Pp. 45.

Se publica esta bibliografía, tomada del periódico italiano *Quaderni Ibero-Americani*, con motivo del vigésimo quinto aniversario de las primeras publicaciones del P. Miguel Batllori y de la llegada a Italia de este estudio, ahora Director del Archivum Historicum S.I. y profesor a la Pontificia Universidad Gregoriana de Roma. No hay que hacer hincapié en la importancia de la obra del P. Batllori, ya que los lectores de la HAHR reconocerán sus contribuciones como lullista, vilanovista, bibliógrafo, e historiador de los valores de la cultura de los países del mediodía europeo, en general. Este hermoso manual igualmente prueba que