

lo consume el A. con una reiterativa exposición de su postura en la polémica sobre la justificación de España y de la procedencia de sus títulos para incorporar los territorios ultramarinos a la Corona.

La traducción al castellano, y la subsiguiente edición del manuscrito, conocido hasta ahora de un modo muy sumario, ha corrido a cargo de Angel Losada, cuya versación en el tema es de todos reconocida. Compulsando el original revisado por Las Casas, cotejado con otros dos textos, uno de ellos descubierto por Hanke, ha cumplido una labor muy encomiable, poniendo en manos de los investigadores una pieza de indudable valor. Con muy buen criterio, Losada formula en la *Introducción* un índice o esquema de la estructura del presente tratado, cuya embrollada lógica y zigzagueante dialéctica oscurece la línea temática. Asimismo nos ofrece una síntesis de los puntos principales sobre que versa la argumentación del P. Las Casas, de suerte que ésta aparezca despojada de la enfadosa hojarasca que la recubre (*cfr.* págs. xiv-xxiii). La dispersión es de tal magnitud, que Las Casas se enzarza en asuntos de la conquista de México, y en cambio el asunto central apenas se toca incidentalmente.

Desde luego, esta obra del P. Las Casas contiene muchos nuevos elementos informativos para aquilatar con mayor precisión el pensamiento del fogoso dominico, ya en las postrimerías de su dilatada existencia. De la lectura se infiere una formulación diferente, en ciertos extremos, de su actitud tan conocida en orden a la justificación de la conquista de América, al extremo de advertirse algunos puntos de contacto con su acérrimo enemigo, Sepúlveda. Por lo demás, y salvo datos muy sugestivos sobre las relaciones personales de Las Casas con el protagonista de la conquista de México, expresivos de su profundo anticortesismo, *Los tesoros del Perú* no aportan novedades de consideración relativas a la historia general de América, defraudando así las expectativas cifradas en la divulgación de este manuscrito lascasiano.

Madrid

GUILLERMO LOHMANN VILLENA

AFTER 1830

Communism in Guatemala, 1944-1954. By RONALD M. SCHNEIDER. New York, 1959. Frederick A. Praeger. Foreign Policy Research Institute Series, 7. Foreword by ARTHUR P. WHITAKER. Glossary. Epilogue. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxi, 350. Cloth. \$6.00.

This study fills an enormous gap in the materials available to the specialist in Latin American politics. Dr. Schneider acknowledges the

aid of the Panamanian-born Mrs. Schneider in the collection of his materials and interviews. Not the smallest service the couple has rendered has been the acquisition of over 50,000 microfilmed frames from the Guatemalan government's collection of documents on Communist activities. Aside from 132 books and articles, and the newspapers of the year covered, these films, which have been donated to the Library of Congress, provide the solid base for the work. This suggests that the surface may only have been scratched.

In some respects the book is as exhaustive as the bibliography might suggest. Its first three chapters are a concise and well-stated overview of the period in question. Following chapters deal with the Communist Party, labor, the bureaucracy, fellow-travelling parties, front organizations, and the Party's international connections. In some instances the approach is intended to be illustrative only, in others it is complete. Because of the depth of treatment, repetition is rather frequent.

This reviewer emerged almost with the feeling of having read an anthropological community study. Clearly, Dr. Schneider's hypothesis of Communist domination, with its continuing risk for Guatemala, could be proved best by intensive exposition. But the introductory chapters only suggest the real meaning of the pre-Arévalo popular antipathy towards the conservatives, foreign investors, and the Ubico regime. The focus is on making the case; there is comparatively little analysis. And this focus, in the language of the camera addict, is so shallow as to give only a hazy glimpse of the events which went on around the Party's machinations. When it becomes apparent in the last chapter that the masses would not arise to support the Arbenz government, as was the case in June, 1954, one feels somehow surprised that all these efforts could be swept away so easily.

But it may be objected legitimately that this is carping criticism. Here is unchallengeable confirmation that Arbenz' government was Communist-controlled. The academic profession may be proud of this relatively new member; his 1958 Princeton Doctorate has been well and fairly earned with this fine work.

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PHILIP B. TAYLOR, JR.

Land Reform and Democracy. By CLARENCE SENIOR. Gainesville, 1958. University of Florida Press. Tables. Figures. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 269. Cloth. \$6.75.

This is a case study of land reform in the Laguna region of Mexico where, in 1936, some 30,000 peasants were suddenly granted