

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

land that was expropriated by the Mexican government from the large plantations of the area that had been devoted largely to the growing of cotton. In view of the importance of the problem of land reform in the world today, the author organized his work around three major questions: (1) How are those who want reform going to secure the power to carry it into effect? (2) Does democracy grow spontaneously after land is distributed or must it be deliberately sought and planned for during and after agrarian reform; (3) what technical problems must be solved?

The first question is often neglected by persons advocating land reform. The latter is usually considered to be largely a matter of technology, solvable by persons with proper technical training and experience. In the Laguna region, however, the question "involved eleven years of civil war, some decades of the spread of new ideas and the nation-wide organization of those who wanted social change." (p. 66)

Most of the book is devoted to the second topic of trying to achieve democracy. The 30,000 peasants were organized into about 300 ejidos (agrarian communities). Most of these are of the collective variety operated on a cooperative basis. General authority in each ejido resides in a general assembly of members who may elect an executive committee to have charge of the general affairs of the community. The assembly also elects a "work chief," a vigilance committee, and other persons to have charge of the various activities. The suddenly acquired democracy confronted the ejidos with many problems with which they were ill-equipped to deal. These are discussed in detail.

In conclusion, the author lists 17 generalizations which he feels are lessons that may be derived from the Laguna experience and which should be of value to anyone considering problems of land reform. The work is exceedingly well documented.

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Political Change in Latin America. The Emergence of the Middle Sectors, by JOHN J. JOHNSON. Stanford, 1958. Stanford University Press. Pp. x, 272. \$5.00.

That the middle classes have become the rich cream in Latin America's coffee is by now pretty much understood by those who see and study modern Latin America. Some parts of the interpretation, however, are not clearly registered. The ethno-sociologist wants to keep his eye upon the mestizo and what used to be called the free