

GRASSO. La Paz, 1958. Gisbert y Cia. Pp. xxii, 453.

This is the newest Bolivian history textbook, written by eminent scholars. Some pre-Columbian chapters were written by the energetic Argentine archeologist, Ibarra Grasso. The other pre-Columbian chapters and the colonial period were done by José and Teresa de Mesa who have just returned from a Guggenheim grant in the United States. The national period was written by the late Humberto Vázquez-Machicado.

The book is divided into six parts, each of which has about four chapters. Part one deals with the pre-Columbian period. Two, three and four cover the colonial period, and the last two parts belongs to the republican period. Each chapter is subdivided into well defined sections. Practically each page has excellent pen and ink illustrations. The text is completely unbiased and is based on solid historical facts. This work is recommended for American universities which offer courses in Latin American history. It gives an adequate overall view of Bolivia.

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Nuestras vías interoceánicas: Tehuantepec, Nicaragua, Panamá. A propósito del Canal de Suez. By VICENTE SÁENZ. Mexico City, 1957. Editorial América Nueva. Colección Autores Contemporáneos, IX. Bibliography. Pp. 217. Paper. \$16.00 pesos; \$2.00 dols.

This is an historical study of some of the projects for ship canals to link the Atlantic and Pacific across Tehuantepec, Nicaragua and Panama. It is also a critical discussion of contemporary problems associated with the Panama Canal, and with plans for other waterways. Many of these issues have become accentuated since the Suez crisis of 1956;—in fact this particular volume seems to have been inspired partially by the Suez affair of the year prior to its publication. Indeed, the entire second part of the volume is

based upon a discussion of the repercussions which the Suez crisis had upon the people and government of Panama. There is a very interesting treatment of the U.S.-Panamanian points of contention over the Panama Canal and the Canal Zone. There is also an examination of the history of other canal projects proposed as alternatives to the existing Isthmian waterway, both in the present time and in years past.

The author insists that the issue of sovereignty for any new canal, whether in Mexico or Central America, probably will have to be resolved completely in favor of the Latin American state through whose soil the United States might finance and furnish technical assistance for a new canal to link the oceans. This appears to be the *sine qua non* to any undertaking for an interoceanic waterway in the Western Hemisphere. The issue of sovereignty over the existing Panama Canal Zone is far from settled because of the indecisive wording of the Hay-Bunau Varilla Treaty. This question hangs like an ominous shadow over the discussion of any new project of canal building in the Americas.

One of the best features of the book is its recital of various canal schemes planned and discussed for the Tehuantepec area. There has been some neglect in the past of this very interesting phase of U.S.-Mexican relations.

The final portion of the book carries the text of the principal treaties dealing with the subject of interoceanic canals across American territory, including the official text of the Bidlack-Mallarino, Clayton-Bulwer, Hay-Pauncefote, Hay-Bunau-Varilla, Bryan-Chamorro, Hull-Alfaro, Hull-Castillo Najera and Fabrega-Chapin treaties. There is also included the text of the Constantinople Convention of 1888.

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Prescott and His Publishers. By C. HARVEY GARDINER. Carbondale, 1959. Southern Illinois University Press.