

islands to hold. Where will they go? New York City is taking Puerto Rico's surplus. London is uneasy about Jamaica's surplus. As one of the contributors to this volume suggests, there seems to be no way out except "a sustained educational effort" for family planning.

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*Central America. The Crisis and the Challenge.* By JOHN D. MARTZ. Chapel Hill, 1959. University of North Carolina Press. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 356. Cloth. \$7.50.

Since World War II Central America has been the scene of events of great significance to the United States which with the possible exception of the Guatemalan revolution and its aftermath are not well-known in this country. This book is an attempt to fill that gap. In general introductory and concluding sections and separate chapters devoted to each of the five Central American countries and Panama it discusses recent events in that area with particular reference to policies followed by the United States.

The book is a reportorial account that supplies the most convenient account of contemporary Central America in English. It describes and relates, often without identifying sources of information, but it does not analyse and explain. Choice of subject matter, allocation of space, and emphasis appear to have been determined by personal interest rather than by intent to identify basic problems. There is no discernible point of view, and the conclusions contain nothing fresher than criticism of United States coddling of dictators such as Somoza, intervention in support of Castillo Armas in Guatemala, and mishandling of relations with Panama on the bases question and during the Suez crisis. No attempt is made, for example, to evaluate on a regional basis the significance of the emergence of organized labor as an active force in national politics.

Much of what the author may have intended to convey is lost in a writing style of which the following paragraph is a representative example:

Until recent years, probably no Central American state was wasting its natural potentialities as shamelessly as Nicaragua. Following its independence from Spain in 1821, nothing happened. Occasional internal strife and dissolute government helped contribute to general stagnation. The state of affairs was deplorable. Citizens lived uncertainly, and only the poorest illiterate peasants escaped political insecurity. They were presented, at the same time, with an oppressive and sometimes losing battle for subsistence and survival.

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*Coffee in Latin America. Productivity Problems and Future Prospects. I Colombia and El Salvador.* By UNITED NATIONS. FOOD & AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION. New York, 1958. Columbia University Press. Tables. Figures. Diagrams. Annexes. Maps. Pp. xi, 144. Paper. \$1.75.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Food and Agriculture Organization present here the first of their joint studies in Latin America. Instructed to study "in specified areas where coffee is the main source of income, those economic and technical aspects of coffee production which exert the greatest influence on economic development," ECLA and FAO selected three areas in Latin America for intensive study: Colombia (the principal mild coffee producer and representative of coffee-growing on small farms); El Salvador where utilization of tractors in coffee growing is most intensive; and the State of São Paulo.

Although a part of this volume is best read by the trained economist, most of it is intelligible to any interested reader. It is based upon much fresh data of assessed reliability and is the clearest, fullest, and most accu-