

Humphreys' chapter. First, what he says is no doubt true. Next, it has long been known to be true. Finally, it has been stated and restated in a great number of previous books and articles on Latin American politics. The possibility that this little volume might fall into the hands of a reader innocent of that earlier literature should not be discounted. Nevertheless, this reviewer cannot avoid the conclusion that it is to be regretted that the essay says little to the less innocent. Beyond condemnatory references to cynical or sinister motives believed to have been entertained by individual dictators, no attempt appears in the chapter to advance an explanatory theory of militarism in Latin American politics.

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Sydamerika. By ERIK BACH. Copenhagen, 1957. Det Udenrigspolitiske Selskab og det Danske Forlag. Pp. 84. Paper.

Issued in a series of pamphlets on international politics published by a Danish agency. Consequently only 20th Century South American history is dealt with in this account apart from a very laconical general introduction. The part devoted to Argentine developments occupies almost a third of the space.

The impact of geographical conditions on political development in the different countries is duly stressed by the author and his account is mainly accurate. The founding of the University of San Marcos in 1651 (p. 77) must be due to a misprint. But when he fails to mention Juan Vicente Gómez in an account of 20th Century Venezuela, however short, it is a real sin of omission. The same must be said to be true of his leaving out Rojas Pinilla in an account published in 1957. No maps.

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The United States in World Affairs, 1958. By RICHARD P. STEBBINS.

New York, 1959. Harper & Brothers, for Council on Foreign Relations. Illustrations. Maps. Chronology of World Events. Index. Pp. x, 479. \$6.00.

A thankless task, that of describing United States foreign policy against the backdrop of world political and economic events, has been undertaken for the ninth time by Richard P. Stebbins. He is more at home with Europe than with Latin America (the western hemisphere is termed "Forgotten"). The outline largely remains true, but the many details are often in error.

Mr. Stebbins generally is sympathetic to Latin America's oft-repeated (but not thereby necessarily valid) claims on the United States. In some instances his presentation thus is editorialized, to his own disadvantage. And he has restricted his research to State Department publications, thereby depriving himself of the possibly greater understanding available from the use of other materials.

On the whole, the book is useful for the intelligent layman and for the overspecialized academician. The goal clearly is general information, not the offering of a research tool, and it should be judged by this criterion.

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The Victor and the Spoils. A Life of William L. Marcy. By IVOR DEBENHAM SPENCER. Providence, Rhode Island, 1959. Brown University Press. Frontispiece. Bibliographical Note. Index. Pp. xii, 438. \$8.00.

William L. Marcy had the misfortune to be active in political life in the golden years of Clay, Calhoun, Jackson, and Webster. He began his political career in New York, where he served as governor in the 1830's, and then went to Washington as Secretary of War under James Polk. But not until the 1850's, when lesser men dominated United States politics, did he achieve genuine stature. Serving as Secretary of State under Franklin Pierce in the