

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.

GEORGE I. BLANKSTEN

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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.

MAGNUS MÖRNER

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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 over-specialized academician. The goal clearly is general information, not the offering of a research tool, and it should be judged by this criterion.

PHILIP B. TAYLOR, JR.

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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

1850's, Marcy won wide respect for his thoughtful conduct of foreign affairs. His greatest triumph came in 1854 with the Marcy-Elgin Treaty which eased Anglo-American tensions, but in many ways he served his country better by restraining the impulsive Young Americans with their plans for the acquisition of Cuba and their numerous filibustering expeditions in Central America. He bitterly opposed the erratic efforts of Pierre Soulé to detach Cuba from Spain and, though the Ostend Manifesto was in part due to his own ambiguous instructions to Soulé, Marcy was finally able to frustrate the expansionists.

Spencer's biography, the first full-length portrait of Marcy to appear, is based on a thorough study of manuscript collections. Wisely choosing to concentrate on Marcy's years as Secretary of State, the author, however, is tedious in his detailed accounts of diplomatic maneuvering. An awkward style and a strong favoritism for Marcy further mar the presentation of a very sound job of research and investigation.

ROBERT A. DIVINE

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ARGENTINA

Argentine. Un monde. Une ville. By R. M. ALBÈRES. Paris, 1957. Librairie Hachette. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 350.

Out of his nine year residence in Argentina after World War II and the characteristic French ability to compress data and insights from half a dozen disciplines into a stimulating synthesis, M. Albères has written the best general account of Argentina known to the reviewer.

There are five sections in the book. The first, "Un Pays d'Horizons," may rather set one's teeth on edge: it seems at the outset that here is another hackneyed European account of the vastness and rawness of Argentina, written with the author's eyes firmly fixed on little old France. But our author moves with increasing deftness through the psycho-environmental maze,

emerging with such illuminating comments as, "Les dix kilomètres du port de Buenos Aires constituent pratiquement la seule frontière économique ou intellectuelle de l'Argentine." The second part of the book is a long and incisive view of Buenos Aires. Part Three describes the provinces. Part Four, "La Nation et les Hommes," is mainly an analysis of contemporary society, but placed against a good historical summary in which the key role of the immigrant is emphasized ("On mit les hommes dans le pays comme on met du charbon au foyer de la locomotive"). Part Five is entitled "Richesses et Activités," and the sixth section, "Civilisation et Culture Argentines." The latter is a keen examination of the Argentine cultural temperament and the achievements and defects in that sector of Argentine life.

Except for occasional carelessness (also characteristically French) in the use of Spanish accent marks, this is such a good book that it is a pity that it will probably never appear in the language most Americans read.

THOMAS F. MCGANN

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The Argentine Novel in the Nineteenth Century. By MYRON I. LICHTBLAU. New York, 1959. Hispanic Institute in the United States. Bibliography. Pp. 225. Paper. \$4.50.

Given Argentina's belated political and cultural history, this work assumes a significance somewhat broader than that indicated by the title. It becomes, perforce, a study of the origins of Argentine prose fiction and a scrutiny of its line of development as it relates to social phenomena, literary movements, external influences, and the unfolding of that national aesthetic consciousness which has rapidly moved Argentina to the forefront in Hispano-American letters.

The approach is basically historical. Though the author sets criticism as one of his objectives, other problems—chronological ordering and classification,