

figure of Ruy Barbosa seems to stand out in greater relief.

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#### CHILE

*The Human Geography of Southern Chile.* By GILBERT J. BUTLAND. London, 1957. George Philip & Son. The Institute of British Geographers Publication, 4. Figures. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 132. Paper. 20/

This book presents a wealth of data relating to Chile's far southern provinces of Aysen and Magallanes, a maze of islands, channels and peninsulas which have been for the great part shunned by man. The island people live amid labyrinth passages and stormy seas; the mainland communities are equally isolated among barriers of mountains, ice fields, glaciers, lakes, forests, and an international frontier. Yet ninety thousand healthy, intelligent inhabitants of these remote provinces, with only air and inadequate maritime transport to the rest of Chile, provide vital supplies of meat, wool, skins, and petroleum for national consumption and export trade.

Doctor Butland covers the various aspects of the physical landscape, the historical evolution of settlement, and the present economy of these lands which have been so aptly called "the uttermost part of the earth." He uses 29 maps and diagrams to compile in concise form the details of his observations during four years of travels on foot, horseback, cycle, car and boat. His reader cannot but conclude that this fascinating region merits fuller and more widespread settlement.

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#### COSTA RICA

*The Costa Rican Election of 1953: A Case Study.* By HARRY KANTOR. Gainesville, 1958. University of Florida Press. Monographs. Septem-

ber, 1958, No. 5. Foreword. Tables. Pp. vii. 68 p. Paper.

This is a book by a political scientist who knows and admires Costa Rica and its people, especially those who support José Figueres and the Liberación Nacional Party. The strength of the book lies in making available in English a brief, clearly-written account of the process of nominating and electing candidates in Costa Rica, with special focus on the 1953 case study.

The program of Figueres and Liberación Nacional ". . . was relatively simple. It proposed to abolish poverty in Costa Rica" (p. 37). José Figueres was elected president on July 26, 1953 by a majority of about 60 per cent of the votes cast, "a tremendous majority," "an overwhelming victory" (p. 64). The author gives uncritical approval to Figueres and Liberación Nacional. Some Latin Americanists may ponder the implications of approving proposals to "abolish poverty" in a country. Certainly such proposals have poignantly pathetic consequences for lower class people who are encouraged to believe that a political party, when in power, can in fact abolish poverty.

President Figueres and Liberación Nacional did not, of course, "abolish poverty" in Costa Rica. Indeed, the Government's "interventionist" and welfare program produced disillusionment, and Figueres' candidate (Francisco Orlich) was defeated by Mario Echandi, an enemy of Liberación Nacional, in the presidential elections of February 2, 1958.

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#### COLOMBIA

*20 años de la federación nacional de cafeteros de Colombia. 1937-1957.* By MANUEL MEJÍA J. Bogotá, 1957. Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia. Graphs. Charts. Illustrations. Plans. Pp. 176. Paper.

Upon the completion of Manuel Mejía's twentieth year as manager, the