

American constitution writing and it is highly appropriate that this ambitious effort and international approach should have been undertaken and gratifying that it was so successfully achieved.

Nineteen countries (Central America is treated as one) are treated in twenty-six papers by twenty-eight authors. The focal point is the middle of the nineteenth century and most of the papers deal with the constitutional development in the respective countries in the half century preceding that or with an examination of the particular state's constitutionalism or constitutional law at mid-century.

Of the nineteen countries treated, eight (Argentina, Brazil, Central America, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay) are Latin American; the others, with the exception of the United States, are all European. Papers are in all instances given in Spanish and in case they were originally written in another language that form is published too.

Value of the papers naturally varies from instance to instance but, taken as a whole, the collection is an eminent addition to the literature on Latin American constitutional history, law, and theory.

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*Diego Rivera.* By SAMUEL RAMOS. Mexico City, 1958. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Colección de Arte, 4. Illustrations. Pp. 200. Cloth.

This book seems an odd choice for the important University of Mexico series, Colección de Arte. It is neither art history nor biography; Professor Ramos, as a philosopher, writes an appreciation of Rivera as a public figure and a man more than as a painter, dealing with abstract ideas and generalizations, not details of the painter's life or style. The danger of such abstract thinking is that it may lose contact with reality or be careless with facts. For instance, he compares Rivera with

several artists including Grünewald, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Tintoretto and Chardin, saying they all are the product of a people's rebellion for fundamental rights (p. 26). This reviewer cannot agree. The poor quality of the photographs is to be regretted. The book is an interesting essay by an important philosopher, but for a history of Rivera and his works or an analysis of his style one must turn to other books.

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*Francisco Zarco ante la intervención francesa y el imperio (1863-1864).* Compilación y prólogo de OSCAR CASTAÑEDA BATRES. Mexico City, 1958. Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores. Appendices. Pp. 216. Paper.

Francisco Zarco, liberal editor, was the leading spokesman for the Reforma and the chief defender of Mexican integrity during the French Intervention. Deserving a place as one of the great heroes of Mexico's resistance to invasion, he nevertheless has been generally unknown to modern historians.

Castañeda Batres here compiles a number of Zarco's great editorials written while Zarco accompanied Juárez as the Mexican government fled before the advancing French. The editorials, from *La Independencia Mexicana* (San Luis Potosí, 1863) and *La Acción* (Saltillo, 1864), attack and refute the French from the standpoint of morality and ethics, religion, and legality. Zarco proves the absurdity of the French position, citing difficulties of finance, international diplomacy, and military supply. He repeatedly rallies all Mexicans to defend their nation.

The editorials here compiled have not been easily accessible to the public. There exist two incomplete collections of *La Independencia Mexicana* and none of *La Acción*, the editorials of the latter being preserved only in a pamphlet printed in Colima in 1864.

Castañeda Batres, in an excellent prologue, analyzes Zarco's great contri-

butions to his country as journalist and statesman.

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*Manuel Eduardo de Gorostiza y su tiempo, su vida-su obra.* By ARMANDO DE MARIA Y CAMPOS. Mexico, 1959. Talleres Gráficos de la Nación. Illustration. Pp. 436. Paper.

This is neither a biography of Gorostiza, a picture of his times, nor a study of his works, any one of which would require an intimate knowledge of background and a sense of perspective sadly lacking here. The volume consists of a hodgepodge of undigested and carelessly copied quotations and documents, thrown together with little regard for order or chronology. The compiler is a newspaper man with all the shortcomings and few of the virtues of members of his profession. The scant documentation is open to sharp criticism, and bibliography and index are conspicuous by their absence.

LOTA M. SPELL

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*La novela de la revolución mexicana.* By ANTONIO CASTRO LEAL. Mexico City, 1958. Aguilar Editor. Frontispiece. Place Index. Vocabulary. Bibliography. Pp. xlv, 1024. Cloth.

It is most fitting that an anthology now be prepared which makes available in decent editorial condition the best fiction produced by Mexican writers who described the impact on the Mexican people of the Revolution (1910-1940).

Included in this first volume are three novels of Azuela, two of Guzmán, two of Campobello and one each of Vasconcelos and Vera. The total effect of these pieces is powerful and fascinating. Largely based on first-hand observation of events and personalities, they reflect vividly the violence and passion of the Mexican holocaust. **Strictly speaking, only a few of them are novels.** The remainder are really memoirs, and yet they depict events of such epic grandeur and develop characters so art-

fully and dramatically that they must be included among the masterpieces of Revolutionary fiction. Most critics would agree that the cream of this first collection are Azuela's *Los de abajo*, Guzmán's *El águila y la serpiente*, and Vasconcelos' autobiographical *Ulises criollo*.

Readers will appreciate the introductory essay, brief biographical sketches, cast of real and fictitious characters, vocabulary of Mexicanisms, and appended bibliography.

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*El pensamiento agrario en la constitución de 1857.* By ROSILDA BLANCO MARTINEZ. Mexico City, 1957. Ediciones Botas. Pp. 177. Paper.

Originally presented as a thesis, this volume is one of many works published on the occasion of the centennial observance of the 1857 charter. Described by its author as an "essay which focuses on the thought of the *Constituyentes* from the agrarian viewpoint," it is in reality a series of source selections accompanied by a commentary that rarely transcends the superficial. Moreover only three members of the Constituent Assembly are treated: Ponciano Arriaga, whose famous *voto particular* on property rights is reproduced; Isidoro Olvera; and José Castillo Velasco. The bulk of the book is devoted to excerpts from writings, decrees, or legislative proposals issued prior or subsequent to the Constituent Assembly. Among those whose ideas are treated in this manner are Abad y Queypo, Francisco Maldonado, José María Luis Mora, Lorenzo de Zavala, Miguel Lerdo, and Andrés Molina Enríquez. The book concludes with an analysis of Article 27 of the 1917 Constitution and a listing of subsequent agrarian legislation. In terms of novelty of sources or depth of analysis this book contributes little.

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