

selection and assimilation of immigrants, qualitative values of populations, colonization and settlement, and the military population.

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CENTRAL AMERICA

Documentos de la Unión Centroamericana. Ed. by ALBERTO HERRARTE. Prologue by J. GUILLERMO TRABANINO. Guatemala City, 1957. Ministerio de Educación Pública. Colección Documentos, 17. Pp. 378. Paper.

This volume is the sequel to, or appendix for, the item called *La unión de Centroamérica* by Alberto Herrarte, published in 1955. There are twenty-eight documents reproduced here, from the Acta de la Independencia of September 15, 1821, to the Carta de San Salvador of October 14, 1951. This is a convenient collection, though it does not and cannot illustrate adequately the forces of which Herrarte speaks most intelligently in his narrative work on the subject. Decisions leading to division rather than unity in Central America will always remain more obscure in the documentation, and there is no attempt to present them here. The book pretends to contain nothing more than the treaties and constitutions which worked toward the restoration or preservation of union.

It should be noted that Herrarte by the time this volume was prepared was Secretario General Adjunto of the Organization of Central American States. J. Guillermo Trabanino, who contributed the prologue, was the Secretary General himself. At the end of Trabanino's term in 1959, the old unwillingness to sacrifice "national" pride for the general welfare has reasserted itself in the negotiations to choose his successor. Maladies such as this Herrarte's books are intended to cure.

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CHILE

Confesiones políticas. (Autobiografía cívica). By RENE MONTERO MORENO. Santiago de Chile, 1958. Empresa Editora Zig-Zag, S. A. Pp. 238. Paper.

When this reviewer was in Santiago in 1954, political circles were buzzing with the news of René Montero's fall from the grace of President Carlos Ibáñez. Montero had served Ibáñez for thirty years as a loyal, sensitive, and self-effacing secretary, speech-writer, political adviser, and alter-mentality. He was largely responsible for creating the public image of Ibáñez that made possible his election in 1952. The shock of Montero's deposal stimulated the writing of this revealing and literate book, a work of importance for several reasons. It tells of the sordid, underground plotting during twenty years to overthrow popularly-elected governments. The chaotic and selfish nature of *Ibañismo* and its leaderless administration of government are nakedly portrayed. Most interesting, however, is the character study of Montero himself, an intelligent man caught up in youth in the irrational personalist emotions of *caudillismo*, who in the fatal denouement is unable to recognize what his motivations have been.

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Ibáñez, caudillo enigmático. By ERNESTO WÜRTH ROJAS. Santiago, Chile, 1958. Editorial del Pacífico. Colección "Vidas." Pp. 377. Paper.

This caustic political biography of one military man by another is not only excellent and even amusing reading, but also throws many fresh historical insights on the career of Chile's only genuine *caudillo* in over a century. General Carlos Ibáñez del Campo, the dubious hero of this narrative, began dabbling in politics in 1924 and became President of Chile in 1927, surviving until 1931. After an interregnum of exile and intrigue, he was legally returned to office in 1952 by an over-

whelming vote. Ibáñez managed to complete this term, a performance which is a monument to Chilean formal democracy and forbearance. He still lives, his four score years now beginning to weigh heavily.

The author reconstructs the early political life of his subject from afar, but bases his analysis of the middle period of exile and the return to governance on close personal observation as well as some interesting documentation. His view of Ibáñez is complicated by reasonableness and overtones of Freudian interpretations. Not nearly enough condemnation is reserved for those civilians who made the double appearance of this military saviour a possibility, but all in all, this work is valuable, well reasoned, and impossible of duplication because of the author's own castronian background.

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El Partido Radical. By FLORENCIO DURAN BERNALES. Santiago de Chile, 1958. Editorial Nascimento. Illustrations. Pp. 622. Paper.

The Radical Party of Chile has played a central role in the political affairs of that nation during most of the years from 1920 to 1952. During that time it became the most responsible of the groups standing for social progress. It reaped its reward at the polls in large congressional delegations and three successive presidential victories. Senator Durán, the author of this book, has spent his life in high Radical Party circles, finally becoming President of the Senate. Thus he is in a position to know what has transpired in Chilean politics; but also he has been a partisan politician, not a disinterested observer.

The title of the book is misleading; the Radical Party is the hero but not the protagonist. The contents are a recounting of the familiar accomplishments of Radical Presidents Aguirre Cerda, Ríos, and González Videla. Their reforms are ascribed largely to the Radical Party without sufficient recognition that they would have been

impossible without the collaboration of various other parties throughout the fourteen-year period. That the Radical central committee withdrew its congressional support at times from all three men is virtually omitted. Governmental shortcomings are frankly recognized, but these become the fault of the presidential incumbents and not of the party.

The defeat of the Radical presidential candidate in 1952, this reviewer feels, was largely due to the inability of the party itself to adjust its program to the altered economic needs of Chile. To impute the party's loss of public confidence solely to González Videla, as Durán does, has led to misunderstanding of the phenomenon of *Ibañismo*, indulgence in Radical self-deception, and the recent party defeat in 1958.

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COLOMBIA

La teoría y la realidad del cambio sociocultural en Colombia. By ORLANDO FALS BORDA. Bogotá, 1959. Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Monografías Sociológicas No. 2. Pp. 44. Paper.

Here one of Colombia's young U. S.-trained sociologists delineates concepts and theories about culture change as he has been able to draw them from the literature and his own study of the village of Saucó. The monograph is entirely conceptual, using standard systemic concepts (standard to rural sociology, at any rate), and introducing a few new concepts. The substance of the study is to be found in the author's earlier community study.

The concepts are heavily psychological in orientation, but lack sophistication in psychology: change is "intended" or "unintended"; it must be "recognized" or "evaluated" before it can be accepted. Economic activity must be "rational" in order to be recognized as economic. No account is taken of evolutionary change, adaptation, or changes due to environ-