properly belavors the fallacious idea that empire applies only to insular conquests and possessions, and is equally impatient with the asepetic label of 'continentalism' commonly in usage to describe the American westward movement.

But Professor Van Alstyne's chief efforts and most persuasive arguments are reserved to examine the root structure of American empire in its colonial and federal growth period, rather than the more flourishing evidence of 1898's imperialism. Many previously unused sources here depict the eagerness of Continental Congress members to inherit the mantle of empire in the New World. Most effective is the chapter on the Franco-American alliance of 1778, with its whetting of American commercial appetites for the conquest and annexation of Nova Scotia, Canada, and Bermuda, and the widely shared belief that such prizes must automatically flow from this treaty.

Successive waves of nationalism in the middle and late nineteenth century brought about the fullest extension of this empire, but its beginning can be traced to a "remarkable sense of direction and purpose" toward such an imperial republic, born of 150 years of practical experience as British colonies. Van Alstyne's work is cogently and convincingly argued, written in lovely style, and is a welcome addition to the area of international history.

RALPH DE BETTS
College of William and Mary, Norfolk


The author is well qualified to write this study of the Puerto Rican experience as America's latest major group of immigrants, and how Americans have gradually matured in treating new arrivals. While no significant addition to professional knowledge, the work merits wide circulation among those interested in a short but enlightening statement of immigrant minority group problems which are still with us. In fact, the reviewer feels that at least the work should be translated into Spanish.

Echoing Professor Oscar Handlin, the author feels that the pattern of immigrant groups repeats itself essentially with the Puerto Ricans. Yet, these have made a quicker adjustment than most previous ethnic groups, he feels. Although prejudice and xenophobia in our American society date from the Pilgrims, now happily there is a phalanx of both official and private groups ranging from the national to the local level helping educate the public and assist the immigrant.

An appendix by Dr. S. Robert Shapiro can serve as a handy manual for those who want to help our society gain from the assimilation of strangers into neighbors. The bibliography is good.

JULIAN NAVA
San Fernando Valley State College


This collection of four essays on the newly-established West Indian Federation proposes, as the preface states, to explore the various problems past and present of the British Caribbean with the primary purpose of establishing a foundation for possible additional study. It does not pretend to do more. However, there is a very good selective bibliography included which is designed to facilitate further study of the area.

An essay on problems and prospects of the new federation is well handled by a West Indian scholar who is currently the registrar of the University College of the West Indies. The influence of history and the political de-