This popular collection of fifteen sketches of prominent revolutionary figures, based largely on the writings of Ramón Puente and on biographical items appearing in the volumes of Problemas Agrícolas e Industriales de México, does not even have the quantitative virtue of the author’s compilation of forty biographical “studies” in Los hombres de la revolución (Mexico, Libro Mex, 1960). Appended are brief commentaries of three different types of “figures” of the Mexican Revolution: the horses, the railroads, and the soldaderas. Unfortunately the treatment of these subjects is so brief as to be merely suggestive of their significance in the movement. The concluding chapter on literature treats in summary fashion the novel, short story and corrido of the Revolution, with only the first receiving more than cursory treatment. In his introduction the author synthesizes the revolutionary movement through 1917 in a rather routine analysis from the radical revolutionary viewpoint.

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At the August, 1960, meeting of the Popular Socialist Party of Cuba (Communist) the leader of the group told the delegates what the party had done since the last meeting (February, 1952), to combat tyranny, imperialism, and latifundia, and to promote the cause of Communism in the island. Blas Roca called attention to the fact that the previous congress had met on the eve of the coup d’état that had returned Batista to power, and that the party had been forced underground by the despotism that ensued. He then launched into an account of the rise and success of the Castro revolution and an analysis of the Castro program, which he characterized as not yet Communist: “Our revolution is not Communist, not because it is Cuban, but because it is not now applying Communist measures or laws, because it is not constructing or organizing a Communist regime now, because it is carrying out anti-imperialist and anti-latifundist objectives, national-liberation, agrarian and industrial objectives for advancing toward the new tasks that social progress will impose upon it.”

It is evident that Cuba’s Communist leader is sure that the Castro revolution will go on to the Communist goal, and to that end he called on the party members to give the program their whole-hearted support: “We must considerably increase and improve our ideological work, our work of raising the revolutionary consciousness of the workers, peasants and the entire people, our work of spreading and explaining Marxist-Leninist theory, Marxist-Leninist principles and Marxist-Leninist methods to all members of the party and all solid revolutionary elements.” Both friends and foes of the Castro regime may well ponder this report on what is happening in Cuba by the man who has led the Communist movement there for a generation. It appeared first in the Communist organ Hoy on August 21, 1960. The present English translation is excellent.

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This volume is the result of an opinion poll taken by the author in person during a visit to Cuba in December of 1960, and is designed to reveal to the people of the United States the “everyday face of Cuba” that is behind the beards, oratory, and headlines. With a “conviction that we have not yet tried to understand the motivation, dreams and desires of the Cuban people,” Mr. Miller set out to find what “the headlines, the reports,