

overgrazing, which is still going on, greatly reduces the grass cover and thereby prevents the occurrence of intense ground fires, which are "the most effective weapon against the competitors of grass—the trees." If woody vegetation will grow on the savannas when burning becomes less intense, then strong support is given to the claim that the grassy valleys encountered by the Spaniards were probably once forested but were maintained in open savanna by hot ground fires ignited by Indians.

The scrub invasion of tropical grasslands to the detriment of grazing potential is not unique to Honduras, but is also presently occurring in the large savannas of Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, and locally elsewhere in Latin America. The causes may or may not be the same as those in Honduras. In any event, we now have a solid basis of departure for future studies of the dynamic, changing nature of tropical savannas as result of man's burning techniques and grazing practices.

This study is of value not only for the theme pursued but also for its informative chapters on the physical geography and the history of human settlement, population, and cattle raising in a country about which relatively little has been written. The historical aspects of the study are carefully documented and evidence a painstaking search of the scattered literature for clues to man's land-use activities and associated changes in vegetation in Honduras since the 16th century.

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Fertile Lands of Friendship. The Florida-Costa Rican Experiment in International Agricultural Cooperation. Gainesville, Florida, 1962. University of Florida Press. Maps. Charts. Illustrations. Index. Pp. xi, 312. \$6.50.

About half this volume deals with the cattle and livestock industry, particularly with animal feeding and nutrition; pasture growing and experimentation;

marketing; and dairying and cheese making. One article deals with the agricultural economics of Costa Rica. Other chapters treat land use problems; land tenure and size of farm; potato marketing and production; coffee nutrition; plant and soil analyses; Mediterranean fruit fly control; and plant virus diseases.

While the writer has no training in these particular subjects, he does have a few reservations on the techniques used or neglected. A number of the articles contain no bibliography, while references used in others do not seem exhaustive. Eight of the authors spent only three months or less in Costa Rica. A number of the papers leave one with the impression that they were written without sufficient homework on previous technical studies as well as on the general social environment in which the recommendations were to be carried out. Although the United Fruit Company is to be commended for financing the publication (it did not finance the studies), it is unfortunate that the full page eulogy of the Company which appears in the frontispiece may make this volume suspect to the many Costa Ricans who by no means share this enthusiasm.

The book has an attractive format and is well illustrated. It remains, however, a compilation of technical articles likely to interest very few historians and other social scientists. The writer would, therefore, recommend the volume only for those interested in Costa Rican data on the cattle and farming problems treated.

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Apuntes de don Rafael Yglesias Castro sobre su vida privada y actuaciones públicas. By RAFAEL YGLESIAS CASTRO. San José, Costa Rica, 1961. Editorial Antonio Lehmann. Pp. 48. Paper.

Recently republished is this 1917 autobiography of former Costa Rican President Rafael Yglesias Castro. Now added are two of his public addresses

and a forward by Jorge Aguilar Morúa, a family friend.

Yglesias, while yet in his twenties, became a successful importer and a governmental minister. Elected to the presidency in 1894, he inherited bitter church-state relations which reduced much of his effectiveness. He was responsible for starting the Pacific Railroad, settling several boundary disputes and putting Costa Rica on the gold standard. Claiming too much unfinished work, he obtained congressional approval for immediate reelection in 1898.

Disproving the myth of Costa Rican tranquility is his account of a half-dozen revolts against him. The report ends with Yglesias' role in the rebellion of 1917.

Aimed at a small audience the pamphlet will have limited value. Adding little to an understanding of the economic and religious issues of the times, it is largely just partisan narrative.

THOMAS KARNES

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The Great Deception. The Inside Story of How the Kremlin Took Over Cuba.

By JAMES MONAHAN and KENNETH O. GILMORE. New York, 1963. Farrar, Straus and Company. Pp. x, 213. \$3.95.

The next generation may not regard this work by two *Reader's Digest* editors as the most authoritative account of how Communism stole the Cuban revolution—but for the present it qualifies for that description.

What Monahan and Gilmore have done is sift hundreds of interviews (some conducted clandestinely with people still in Cuba) to put together a comprehensive report both detailed and broad in scope. It contrasts remarkably with those books which merely relate personal experience or observations of pre- and synchro-Castro Cuba.

Interview-type history, however, in its difficulty in documentation is always subject to both deliberate and unintentional distortion, and time may find that this is the case here. For one

thing, hindsight as to Castro's intentions is obviously better than foresight. For another, doubtless hundreds of Cubans can truthfully note that they "said all along Fidel was a Communist," albeit with no more reason than had U.S. Ambassador Earl E. T. Smith. Smith's book, *The Fourth Floor*, is principally valuable for making clear Smith "knew" Castro was Red because Fulgencio Batista said so, and Batista was such a jolly fellow at parties.

Likewise, there remain honest differences between Cubans on many elements. For instance, Monahan and Gilmore make a strong case that Carlos Rafael Rodríguez and two Communist colleagues perpetrated the rape of the original Agrarian Reform Law whose principles gained Castro so much support without the knowledge of its author, Minister of Agriculture Humberto Sori Marín. Yet when this reviewer discussed this particular point in another publication, the next day an irate Cuban refugee telephoned him to assert in all sincerity that he "knew" Sori Marín was a Communist and had been for years—although Sori Marín resigned and went underground a few days before the text of the Rodríguez version was published, was later captured at La Cabana on April 20, 1961.

But it is the technique of the take-over rather than its personalities that is the major subject of this or any other book on recent Cuba. And Monahan and Gilmore have given us a graphic illustration of that technique in capsule form in their description of events preceding and at the Cuban Federation of Labor (CTC) Congress of November 18, 1959. The book is worth reading for these few pages alone; but all of it is worth reading.

HOLMES ALEXANDER

Tampa Tribune

Kinship and Community in Carriacou.

By M. G. SMITH. New Haven, Connecticut, 1962. Yale University Press. Caribbean Series. No. 5. Charts.