

markable man of destiny—General Sam Houston. This biographical narrative, which was written with an ease and grace that any novelist might envy, has a real quality of growth and is not merely a record of things that happened. The large volume contains much information that has not been hitherto accessible.

Those who have known Sam Houston only as a figure in history books will suddenly realize that they are being introduced to a person different from any other they have ever known or read about. The magnetic attraction of the general's personality is sure to stimulate the reader throughout the book. This atmosphere prevails equally during Houston's wildcat childhood days as during the stormy years of his adult life. He is always up to some venture that few would choose to undertake and all would yearn to possess the valor to challenge.

In historical substance the author has succeeded in making a striking character study of a historically great man by re-evaluating the outstanding traits of his complicated personality and blending them with the great events of the day in which he participated. The narrative of the events is consecutively told, section by section, tracing the major phases of Houston's career: his decision to go to Texas; his relations as Commander-in-Chief with the General Council, the legislative body of the first provisional government; his plans for defending Texas without sacrificing the Alamo garrison; his strategy during the forty-day campaign which culminated in victory at San Jacinto; his anti-war policy as president of the Texas Republic; his annexation policy; his thirteen years of service in the United States Senate and his attempts to check the drift toward war and to heal the breach between North and South; and his anti-secession policy as governor of Texas.

In a singularly unbiased account the author draws the likeness of Houston as a human of great courage in the face of hardship, privation, and peril, of a man of broad mental vision, of rich imagination and deep intuition, destined to

become great in his country's service. Yet at no time does Wisehart ignore his subject's many personal weaknesses. Pages are devoted to Houston's moments of defeat, despair, and drunkenness. There are many equally humorous and diverting incidents which cause the reader to become even more attracted to the main character as well as to the book. The entire volume is a good example of straightforward writing abounding in human interest and unmarred by any attempt at dramatic effect. It will be recognized as an endeavor of first-rate importance written by a man who may be considered thoroughly qualified for the task.

The work is particularly rich in quotations and references and is capped with a bibliography which is abundant without seeming to be a wanton display of industry minus judgment.

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Inter-American Efforts to Relieve International Tensions in the Western Hemisphere, 1959-1960. Washington, D. C., 1962. U. S. Government Printing Office. Department of State Publication 7409. Appendices. Pp. xiii, 410. Paper. \$1.25.

This volume, prepared by the Historical Division of the Department of State, consists of a one hundred-page narrative summary followed by three hundred pages of documents. It provides a detailed account of efforts of the OAS to resolve the international crises that disturbed the Caribbean area in 1959 and 1960.

In 1959, crises caused by invasions and rumored invasions of Panama, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic—allegedly sponsored by the Cuban or Dominican governments—required numerous meetings of the Council of the OAS. Finally, the problem of Caribbean tensions was referred to the Fifth (Santiago) Meeting of Foreign Ministers held in August, 1959. But the pious resolutions approved at Santiago demonstrated the failure of the American states to agree upon a specific

course of action, and tensions in the Caribbean persisted.

In 1960, these tensions assumed an even graver aspect with the attempted assassination of President Betancourt and the support extended by the Soviet Union to Cuba. The Sixth (San José) Meeting of Foreign Ministers held in August unanimously condemned the Dominican government for "acts of aggression and intervention against Venezuela," and that government withdrew from the conference. At the Seventh (San José) Meeting which followed, a relatively mild resolution against "extracontinental intervention" resulted in the withdrawal of Cuba.

The summary briefly describes each crisis, then at greater length reviews the discussions and decisions made by the instrumentality of the OAS exercising jurisdiction in the dispute. Based exclusively upon official sources, the narrative summarizes the policies of all states—Cuba and the Soviet Union included—with commendable accuracy. The authors avoid polemics and present the U. S. position with restraint. The interpretation of events is left largely to the reader, partly, one suspects, in order to avoid stating conclusions that would reveal weaknesses in the inter-American organization or a failure of U. S. policy.

Although adding nothing significantly new to available sources, the documents reproduced constitute a valuable and convenient collection well worth having. Of particular interest are the extracts of speeches made before the Council and at the foreign ministers' conferences.

Despite its merits, this official history does not alone constitute an entirely satisfactory treatment of the subject. For livelier discussions that also provide a broader perspective, one should consult Mechem's *The U. S. and Inter-American Security* and the summaries of U. S. foreign policy for 1959 and 1960 published by the Council on Foreign Relations.

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America and the World Revolution and Other Lectures. By ARNOLD J. TOYNBEE. New York, 1962. Oxford University Press. Bibliography. Pp. 231. \$4.75.

This volume consists of three sets of university lectures delivered by the author, with the goal of presenting contemporary international problems and possible solutions based on historical evidence.

In "The Present-Day Experiment in Western Civilization," delivered at McGill University, the author considers the impending danger of mass-annihilation. He concludes that a world state with a democratic parliamentary constitution is the solution. However, given the urgency of the problem, he adds that the world state must come quickly, at the expense of democratic constitutional norms, if necessary. He foresees the possibility of an individual upon whom supreme power over the world will rest.

The University of Pennsylvania lecture, "America and the World Revolution," dealt with the American Revolution as the inspiration for subsequent revolutions throughout the world. Professor Toynbee noted that arch-revolutionary America has become arch-conservative and that she has insulated herself from the majority of the human race. The author feels that to resume her historical revolutionary role, America must lower her principal barrier, which is affluence, and mix with the poor world majority. In this light, he concludes, the Peace Corps is a desirable step.

The economies of several Latin American countries were reviewed at the University of Puerto Rico. Affirming that the Hemisphere's anxiety is for social justice, Toynbee considered whether United States aid is based on a sincere belief in this worthy goal or whether it is merely a means to forestall violent action and thus protect vested interests. He concluded that the answer is not clear but that the Alliance for Progress program appears to leave the United States upholding social justice.

The noted scholar readily admits that history does not offer perfectly analogous models for present problems, hence