

Central America since 1808 and to the literary history of colonial New Spain.

Biographical studies of José Matías Delgado and Manuel José de Arce, published originally in San Salvador in 1911, and "Guatemala en las Cortes de Cádiz," in which special attention is paid to the roles played by José María Peinado and Antonio Larrazábal, comprise about half the volume. These studies reflect considerable insight into the period from 1808 to 1830. While the author's biographical sketches are particularly enlightening, he placed little importance on institutions such as the Consulado de Comercio and the Sociedad Económica and, in general, failed to recognize fully the economic issues affecting the emerging political factions in Central America. On the other hand, his treatment of the Guatemalan Ayuntamiento contains much information not generally available in works of this sort.

In dealing with figures nearer his own time Valladares was less dispassionate, especially in his bitter but revealing condemnation of the regime of Manuel Estrada Cabrera, which he called "the cruelest dictatorship in the history of America." Briefer essays discuss Dr. Esteban Corti, Manuel and Andrés de Llano, Domingo Antonio de Lara, Dr. Mariano Gálvez, and Justo Rufino Barrios. The remainder of the volume contains miscellaneous essays, notes, letters, and documents, several of which deal with poetry and other literature of colonial New Spain.

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My War with Communism. By MIGUEL YDÍGORAS FUENTES with MARIO ROSENTHAL. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1963. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 238. \$5.00.

The author of this book is a recent president of Guatemala, deposed by a *coup d'état* on March 30, 1963. His collaborator is a native of Guatemala, a correspondent for the Associated Press, and the author of *Guatemala: The Story of an Emergent Latin-American*

Democracy, published in New York in 1962.

By way of preface, *My War with Communism* begins with a brief essay sketching the main story and explaining how and why its author was overthrown and forced into exile, including a vigorous denial that he connived in his own downfall and departure. The essay is dated April 6, 1963, Managua, Nicaragua, and is followed by a short foreword by Adolf Berle dated New York, New York, March, 1963, in which Berle vouches for the importance and, apparently, for the veracity of the narrative. These dates are specified here because they suggest that the main body of the book was probably completed before General Ydígoras left Guatemala.

The most interesting portions of the volume are those dealing with Guatemala's participation in the Bay-of-Pigs episode and with the posture and activities of the Guatemalan delegation at the Santiago, San José, and Punta del Este Inter-American Conferences. The rest is illuminating and important but often rather dull because of a multitude of names, dates, and geographical details without maps or illustrations. At least the author proves his case that Communist activities in Guatemala did not cease with the overthrow and expulsion of Jacobo Arbenz in July, 1954, and that those activities intensified with the success of the Fidel Castro revolution in Cuba.

General Ydígoras asserts that his administration (1958-1963) was attacked by enemies both from the right and from the left; that he has long been a champion of democracy and enlightened capitalism; and that he has been misunderstood and misrepresented in the United States. These assertions have the ring of truth and sincerity. But most readers will probably be slow to accept without further verifying evidence some of the author's assertions with reference to the role of United States Ambassador John Peurifoy during the critical months of 1954 and regarding the policy of the United Fruit Company, the International Railways of Central America, and some of the

officials and lobbyists in Washington, D. C.

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The Land Divided, The World United.

By PAUL RINK. New York, 1963.
Julian Messner, Inc. Index. Pp. 189.
\$3.95.

There must be some mistake. This book was sent to me to review, but a more appropriate addressee would be my eleven-year old son. But, *no importa*, my son says the book is "neat," and I have had a chance to look over a young peoples' history of a subject very close to my heart. Wisdom tells me to end the review here because I am not qualified to comment upon children's literature, whereas as a historian I might say some unkind things about an author who, from the description on the book jacket, is apparently pleasant, sincere, and honest. I am compelled, however, to comment that the book is heavily indebted to Gerstle Mack's *The Land Divided* for more than its title and that there are loud echoes of Miles P. DuVal (*Cadiz to Cathay, And The Mountains Will Move*), Tracy Robinson (*Fifty Years at Panama*), and Andre Siegfried (*Suez and Panama*), among others. Aside from its reliance upon secondary sources (all of which are at least twenty years old), there are some serious inaccuracies, for example, the description of William Nelson Cromwell as an employee of Philippe Bunau-Varilla. I wonder, really, if we should not raise our standards and insist that even (or especially) young peoples' histories cite sources properly and introduce their readers to the wonderful world of documentation.

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La revolución cubana. By CLAUDE JULIEN. Translated by MARIO TRAJENBERG. Montevideo, 1961. Ediciones Marcha. Index. Pp. 259. Paper.

Claude Julien is the justly renowned correspondent of *Le Monde* for the Western Hemisphere. His first-hand ac-

count of the Cuban revolution covers the period from early 1958, when Castro was only a thorn in Batista's flesh, to late 1960, when he had become a fixation in the American mind. This defines the scope of the work: it is but a journalistic account, and it covers its subject only in part.

But within these limitations the book discharges its purpose quite well: it retells the main events of the period and it offers a reasonable interpretation thereof. Julien's thesis—not an indisputable one, of course—is that the Cuban revolution, being unduly pressed by the American government to choose between alignment with Russia or alignment with the United States, was forbidden neutralism, the only policy under which Cuba could have simultaneously achieved her economic emancipation from and maintained friendly ties with the United States. The author accounts, in turn, for this American policy by the executive and legislative powers' inability to adapt themselves rapidly to changing world conditions.

The book is noteworthy in two respects. First, it pays attention to the internal conditions, particularly those created by the Catholic Church, which tended to reinforce the American pressures. Second, though it does reach conclusions and evaluations, it is sufficiently detached and cool-headed to merit the scholar's attention. Its concern, clearly, is to try to understand—a rare finality in a subject in which most writers have contented themselves with trying to fix the blame.

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Cuba no es una isla. By SOL ARGÜEDAS. México, 1961. Ediciones Era, S. A. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 205. Paper.

In racy journalistic style Sol Argüedas writes with passion of the invasion of the Bay of Pigs. She tells of being the only woman and one of the few Spanish-speaking foreign newspaper representatives to be invited by Castro's Ministry of Communications to go to the combat zone. Proceeding to