

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 TRAJTENBERG. 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