

biography by the deposed president, General Isaias Medina Angarita. The volume is brief and rather sketchy. It encompasses Medina's entry into politics after a military career, outlines the major policies of his administration, and concludes with a description of his ultimate removal from office.

Writing in measured tones of his executive responsibility, the author declares that "in order to avoid for my country the ills of prolonged turbulence, of insecurity, of civil war and of loss of international prestige, I hesitated not a moment in sacrificing . . . the Government over which I presided." Yet this does not square with the fact that sometimes heated fighting continued some two days after his departure from Venezuela. Furthermore, it is questionable whether the bulk of the military remained loyal to Medina, as he believes.

There is little question that the *medinista* period marked a substantial stride forward in the evolution of Venezuelan public affairs. Yet Medina's intellectual ties with the traditions of the past are apparent in his almost naive discussion of political problems and his unguarded optimism in the armed forces. A certain primitiveness shines forth in broad criticisms of the value of political parties in a constitutional democracy.

In sum, this book gives Medina's views on certain important matters but is far too brief to provide the kind of detailed analysis that might strengthen the position of his administration in the eyes of history.

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*Los días y la política.* By GONZALO BARRIOS. Caracas, 1963. Editorial Arte, C. A. Pp. 463. Paper.

With the passing of years Gonzalo Barrios has assumed an increasingly unique position in Venezuelan public affairs. One of the original founders of the movement that became today's *Acción Democrática*, he has been in the forefront of the struggle for political democracy and human freedom for over

three decades. Now his views of recent and contemporary developments, as expressed through a series of newspaper commentaries, have been reproduced under one cover.

More than 125 columns from *El Nacional* and *La República* of Caracas have been included, covering the period from May, 1958, to October, 1963. The diversity of subjects makes elaboration impractical. Among the subjects under discussion are, to mention but a few, the problem of leftist terrorism, government security measures, revision of the electoral code, operation of a bi-party coalition, policy toward recognition of non-constitutional regimes, the implementation of agrarian reform, and the role of a partisan democratic opposition.

In each of these areas, and in many others, Barrios is—as he concedes in the introduction—a partisan. Leader of his party's congressional organization until the recent elections, he has now succeeded to the presidency of *Acción Democrática*. Yet his position within the national polity is in large degree a function of character and temperament. A man with long experience in international circles, Barrios combines inward serenity with a subtle and discriminating mind. His spirit of compromise and toleration of hostile views are uncommon among Venezuelan figures, accounting in part for the esteem in which he is held by political antagonists. Thus his comments, while representing an important partisan view, at the same time provide enlightenment on major contemporary political issues in Venezuela.

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*Derecho territorial ecuatoriano.* By RAFAEL EUCLIDES SILVA. Guayaquil, 1962. Universidad de Guayaquil. Maps. Bibliography. Pp. xvi, 526. Suces 120.00.

This new publication on Ecuador's border problem was originally presented as a doctoral dissertation in law at the University of Guayaquil by one of its well known history professors. Never-