

monplace when not downright bizarre. For the author, the formation (or deformation) of Argentine culture has had one overriding determinant: the Spanish language (to which there are numerous panegyrics throughout the book). That is, modern Argentina lacks an indigenous culture due to the failure or unwillingness of more than a cultivated minority (largely alienated anyway) to learn a proper, grammatical, *castizo* Spanish. The historical disasters of the Argentine nation can be explained in a similar way: e.g., the "most decisive determinant" of the anarchy of the post-independence years was the "*murallón idiomático*" between *próceres* and people (p. 79). The author, it must be said, is not afraid to ride his thesis at full gallop right up to the *reductio ad absurdum*: musing on the anomalous case of J. M. de Rosas, the *caudillo* who was also *culto*, de Matteis notes (p. 84) that it must be allowed, after all, that Rosas wrote his diplomatic notes in a cultivated and even baroque Spanish and possessed, besides, *una hermosa caligrafía*.

The argument for multiple causation has never been set out more effectively.

RONALD C. NEWTON

Purdue University

*La constitución argentina en la teoría y en la práctica.* By JOSÉ ARCE. Buenos Aires, 1961. Ediciones Depalma. Appendix. Pp. xiv, 260. Paper.

The author was a former member of the Chamber of Deputies; in politics, he was one of the leaders of the Conservative Party; as an educator, he was for a time Rector of the University of Buenos Aires; as a diplomat, he was one-time ambassador to the United Nations and served for a period as president of that body. He has written articles and monographs on education and the constitution.

This book, it was said, was written for "simple people," the young, and the "man of the street," who might wish to be given a "look" (*asomarse*) at the problems of the community, "without prejudice." The work is in

two divisions, with the first (pp. 1-164) being a commentary, article by article, on the constitution, although the comment with reference to quite a number of articles is that no commentary is needed. The second part, or appendix, is made up of three monographs (pp. 167-260), all previously written by the author and two of them previously published. The author's commentaries as to length and avowed interest show a prevailing emphasis on the legislative power. His opinions concerning the problems of proportional representation in Argentina and the active interposition of political parties in the deliberations of the Chamber of Deputies may well be read attentively by his selected audience, as well as by others. Those opinions are stated forthrightly, whether or not they are without prejudice.

As respects constitutional history, the author takes a position on which he "insists." The great majority of writers on the Argentine constitution, it is believed, has held that the defeat of the Rosas dictatorship in 1851 opened the opportunity for the formulation of an enduring constitution—that of 1853. The Province of Buenos Aires in 1852 had established an independent government of its own and was not a party to this charter. It is the thesis of the author that the Argentina of fourteen provinces did not come to have a constitution until 1860. In this view the author insists that the *ad hoc* convention of 1860 which adopted twenty-five amendments and four new articles was not merely an amending or reforming body, but a constituent body.

Much attention, noteworthy in a book of this brevity, is given to the distinction between strictly legislative functions (law-making) and non-legislative functions (administrative actions) of the congress, which are constitutionally authorized or required. Such duties are considerable in number and importance in Argentina, although not unique. The author is concerned by the incongruity of the adoption of "laws" rather than "resolutions" in relation to some procedural actions. On the other hand, he seems little concerned with the problem

of the executive as co-legislator, although decree-laws grow in volume with time.

W. W. PIERSON

University of North Carolina

*Entrepreneurship in Argentine Culture.*

By THOMAS C. COCHRAN and RUBÉN E. REINA. Philadelphia, 1962. University of Pennsylvania Press. Notes. Charts. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 338. \$7.50.

The authors state in the preface that this is neither a biography nor a business history, but "a selection of the elements that seem historically and socially important in a case study of the introduction of mass production of machinery into the grain and cattle economy of Argentina." In spite of this statement, the book is primarily a history of the *Sociedad Industrial Americana Maquinarias Di Tella Limitada* (SIAM) and the preponderant role of Torcuato Di Tella in its early history. Excluding the introduction (which is a brief survey of the economic and political history of Argentina), four of the book's seven chapters trace the evolution of SIAM from 1928 to 1960, while two others (II and V) form a rather brief biography of Di Tella. The last chapter, "Entrepreneurship, Industrialization, and Argentine Culture," attempts to generalize from the example of SIAM and Di Tella.

The description of SIAM's development from the making of bread-kneading machines in an old garage to Argentina's largest industrial complex includes quite detailed discussions of the manufacturing of gasoline pumps, water softeners, ice boxes, electric motors, etc. It does not, however, go much beyond such descriptions. For example, there is no analysis of the place of SIAM in the overall process of Argentine industrialization; neither is there an explanation of the effects upon SIAM—nor industry in general—of the different economic positions of the Radical, Conservative, Peronist, and military governments.

The last section could have made the entire book worthwhile; unfortunately,

it does not quite do so. While there is a good description of Di Tella's labor policy and the changes thereupon forced by the Peronist government, it is only SIAM and Di Tella that are discussed—not "Entrepreneurship, Industrialization, and Argentine Culture."

The book was written almost entirely from SIAM records, Di Tella's correspondence, and personal interviews. This is apparent not only from the footnotes, but also from the authors' style, which detracts seriously from the work. In places the method of expression is such that many readers may well refuse to go on.

In general, this is a good description of the early development of SIAM; however, it does little to analyze the phenomenon of *Entrepreneurship in Argentine Culture*.

PETER SNOW

University of Iowa

*La política exterior argentina.* By ARTURO FRONDISI. Buenos Aires, 1962. Transición. Pp. 213. Paper.

This book is a collection of speeches and other public statements of Arturo Frondizi. The pronouncements offered here were originally made between 1958 and 1962 while he was in office as President of Argentina. Ranging over a wide variety of topics, the collected statements are organized in six groups, dealing with Argentina's place in the world, economic development in Latin America, the nature of the inter-American community, the bases for a just peace, some specific questions in Argentine foreign policy, and problems posed at the meeting of the Organization of American States held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, early in 1962, shortly before the Argentine military coup which overthrew Frondizi's government. Most of the speeches collected here, as the title of the book implies, deal directly or indirectly with questions in Argentine foreign policy, although some of the statements included also dwell on such subjects as the nature of Western civilization and the character of university life in Latin America.