but feels that the techniques developed by Leontiev and Tinbergen have only a limited utility for the Mexican case. He goes on to propose an interesting approach based upon preparation of budgets of regional requirements on the assumption that regional disparities are so pronounced that each section of the republic must, to some extent, be treated as a special case. Unfortunately, however, so much space is devoted to matters which add little to our knowledge of either Mexico or planning that Professor Zamora's own distinctive contribution does not receive sufficient treatment to do it justice. Since his proposal for regional plans was presented so cursorily, it does not seem appropriate to subject it to a critical evaluation.

William P. Glade
University of Wisconsin


Observers of twentieth-century Mexico are familiar with Mexico's skyrocketing birth rate, now among the highest in the world, and are doubtless also aware of a general Mexican apathy toward measures to limit population increase. The author of this booklet, by means of questionnaires and interviews, examines contemporary Mexican attitudes toward these problems. Results of the investigation confirm the view that Mexicans are generally hostile or apathetic to birth control measures. Indeed, the prevailing Mexican attitude is that the high birth rate, far from being a problem, is a challenge and a necessary stimulus to economic growth.

The author is well aware of the limitations of the questionnaire method, and modestly explains that his is an "exploratory study." Probably the most serious limitation is the selection of untypical Monterrey as the location of the study. However, within the Monterrey focus, the author and his assistants painstakingly chose informants from varying educational and economic backgrounds. In all some 300 persons were asked their views on the causes of poverty in Mexico, the possible relationships between poverty and the high birth rate, and obstacles that might be encountered in an attempt to reduce the rate of increase. Follow-up interviews with 50 persons allowed a further probing of representative attitudes.

Mexicans of all classes and of both sexes, according to the author, are overwhelmingly suspicious of efforts to limit population and/or ignorant of birth control practices, and they do not tend to link poverty with population pressures. Mexicans interpret population planning "as a threat to the Mexican way of life . . . a threat to the culturally and racially sensitive male view of family, society, and national destiny." They generally assume that Mexico needs a greater population to achieve its national destiny. Professor Corwin finds that the Church is only one of many factors conditioning these attitudes; "peasant-agrarian habits, mass poverty, the pre-Columbian heritage, the rigid Hispanic concepts of family, virginity, and masculinity, the nature of mestizo nationalism," all serve to reinforce Mexico's laissez-faire attitude on population.

Charles L. Stansifer
University of Kansas


A group of Cuban economists-in-exile have gathered at the University of Miami, and have been actively engaged in preparing studies of Cuban economic life. This massive volume is an economic history of Cuba from colonial times to the present, with emphasis on the quantitative factors of economic growth. The authors have assembled a vast amount of material relating to all