policy in the years preceding as well as following the present volume.

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The persistent withering away of social stability and of law and order in the Colombian countryside, has, among others, deep roots in the increasingly serious state of that nation’s agriculture. Almost all Colombian authorities are agreed that some practical and expeditious land reformation is urgently necessary, or the rural turmoil may destroy all prospects for peaceful economic and social improvement.

The achievement of independence brought little change to the colonial system of land tenure. Colombia’s agrarian problems did not, however, remain static. By the first Alfonso López presidency, 1934-1938, the twin evils of latifundia and minifundia gave rise to a minimal law of land reform, Ley 200 of 1936. Its implementation was barely nominal over the next quarter-century. The desperate need for some sort of a new basis for land distribution and utilization was finally recognized in the agrarian social reform legislation enacted on December 13, 1961.

This book is essentially a manual for students of Colombian agrarian law. It is divided into two main parts. The first, which contains eight chapters, discusses the historical evolution of agrarian law, its main schools, the colonial heritage, Colombia’s land legislation from 1821 to 1959, land as a social factor, agrarian legislation in Asia and Europe, the land problem in the Americas, and, finally, a chapter devoted to Colombia’s agrarian problem. The second part examines, in nine chapters, the sources and content of the land reform law of 1961, as well as the numerous Colombian government agencies charged with its implementation.

Professor Alberto Aguilera Camacho has taught agrarian law at the National University, and presently teaches it at the Universidad Libre in Bogotá. Besides his legal specialization, Aguilera Camacho brings us the experience of a youth spent in Subachoque, a farming community in Cundinamarca. Thus, his understanding of the agrarian problem is perceptive and clear-sighted. The author does not believe that benevolent laws and the proliferation of agencies responsible for their implementation are sufficient to bring about constructive changes to that half of the Colombian population which ekes its subsistence from the land. Indeed, Aguilera Camacho deplores the Colombian state’s abdication, through its creation of a host of semi-detached and autonomous bureaus, of direct responsibility for, and interest in, the rural basis of Colombia’s economy. He argues that without effective governmental social action and heavy financial support, the Colombian peasant can look forward to little more than a continuation of his present substandard existence.

Dr. Aguilera Camacho has prepared a sobering and thoughtful manual. His analysis of the much-touted reform law of 1961 is balanced, objective, and not very reassuring. It is to be hoped that not merely those interested in modern Colombia as scholars read this book, but that its message may not escape those charged with its government.

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The present volume is a collection of short studies and articles written by different specialists concerning the physical and human conditions of the isolated and long-neglected Guajira Peninsula in northeastern Colombia. The topics covered range from geology to mythology. "Indians", and