

which is the only history so far to cover in detail the activities of the extreme left in the 1920's and 1930's.

Unfortunately, this volume under review falls into the pamphleteering category. The documents presented here attempt to show how Stalinist labor leaders have been involved in anti-labor and anti-revolutionary activities, principally in stealing union funds, massacring workers, and opposing or modifying important strikes and labor positions. The first documents cover the supposed theft by Irineo Pimentel (whose jailing in December, 1963, set off the hostage issue with the United States) from the Siglo XX miners' union. Then there is the reprinting of the parliamentary interpellation of the Trotskyites, with accompanying documents, on the role of the Stalinists in the January, 1947, Potosí massacre, an action for which the Stalinists paid heavily in labor and political support. Finally Lora presents his interpretation of several anti-labor actions of Pimentel and Federico Escobar in the early 1960's, and ends with Ricardo Anaya's recent doctrinal stand on the role of the mine workers.

While these documents and personal evaluations are highly selective and often fail to prove their point, they are nevertheless invaluable in presenting the general ideas of the Trotskyite faction in the labor movement. This volume and its predecessor in this series, *La burocracia sindical y la masacre de siglo xx*, also published in 1963, caused a strong reaction in labor circles and led to a major public debate in the press. Between this debate and Lora's previously unpublished documents, much new material has been made available on the role of the various political groupings in the history of the Bolivian labor movement.

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THE PLATA REGION

La grande Argentina. By LEOPOLDO LUGONES. Buenos Aires, 1962. Edi-

torial Huemul, S.A. Notes. Pp. 230. Paper. \$2.00.

This is not a new book, but a reprint of the original published in 1930. The reasons for the re-issue are made clear in the introduction written by the author's son, who has the same name as his illustrious father—Leopoldo Lugones. According to Lugones (son), *La grande Argentina* is an extraordinarily modern book. Most of the problems that Argentina faced thirty years ago, it still faces today. Some of the chapters have a surprising similarity with the present, and it is difficult to conceive that so many years have elapsed since they were written.

Leopoldo Lugones was primarily a poet, and as such he will be remembered. When the present work appeared in 1930, Lugones was 56 years of age and the author of more than thirty books. A number of these were prose works dealing with economic, social, and political problems. Thus, besides being the leading poet of Argentina, Lugones had an intimate knowledge of his homeland and its people. As stated by his son: "*La grande Argentina* offers the reader a very clear idea of what our country is, including its defects, which have been imposed upon it by mistaken politics." The author himself refers to the book as "an act of faith in the motherland, which also pretends to formulate a diagnosis." The diagnosis is, of course, the essence of the whole book, and with each one, Lugones prescribes the cure that must be administered to make Argentina strong and prosperous. A blunt and outspoken critic, Lugones attacks with vigor such abuses as excessive liberalism in government, inadequate public education, corruption in politics, exploitation by foreign interests, the *latifundio*, high interest rates, bad transportation facilities, poor public health measures, and a number of other problems. He especially abhors what he calls "democracia mayoritaria." The concept of "noble equality," he states, should mean total equality for those who are competent. But unless this is

true, it would be senseless to rely on the inept for the government of the country. The liberty to do, and especially to do harm, continues the author, is an idealistic paradox which can result in social disintegration. The terms "democracy" and "republic" have to be Argentine and not Anglo-Saxon, he argues. The reaction against the *gauchismo* of the semi-barbarous federation gave rise to an exaggerated form of foreign constitutional liberalism which was incompatible with the local conditions. Only by finding its own solutions, asserts Lugones, can that country aspire to be "La grande Argentina."

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El virreinato del Río de la Plata en la época del Marqués de Avilés (1799-1801). By JOSÉ M. MARILUZ URQUIJO. Buenos Aires, 1964. Academia Nacional de la Historia. Biblioteca de Historia Argentina y Americana, XIII. Index. Pp. 409. Paper.

This is a topical treatment of viceregal affairs for the period. Although printed sources for the era are few, and no bibliography is included, there are 400 legajos of documents on the era in the Archivo General de la Nación in Buenos Aires. Other repositories such as the manuscript section of the Museo Mitre and private collections in Argentina, as well as foreign archives, were also used.

The topics treated include Spain, relations with Brazil, warships and corsairs, mining, commerce, missions, ideas, education, and life and customs. Five chapters were published earlier in various historical journals, and were therefore excluded from this work. These deal with military organization, work and communications, the expedition against the Charrúas in 1801, the founding of San Gabriel de Batoví, and the Marqués' religious ideas.

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BRAZIL

Brazil's Developing Northeast: A Study of Regional Planning and Foreign Aid. By STEFAN H. ROBOCK. Washington, 1963. The Brookings Institution. Notes. Maps. Charts. Tables. Index. Pp. ix, 213. Paper. \$2.00.

It is ironic that Brazil's Northeast, once the focus of international envy, has become a center of increasing international concern because of the plight of its millions of inhabitants. But Professor Robock, who formerly served as a United Nations' consultant to the Nordeste, decries the widespread gloomy estimate of the region's future prospects, and contends that regional disparities between the Northeast and other parts of Brazil are currently diminishing and are likely to continue to do so.

In this brief but informative study the author reviews the many federal programs established since 1877 to cope with the complex problems that have long afflicted the nine-state "drought polygon," and contrasts the older, largely unsuccessful "hydraulic approach" with the newer "economic development approach" championed by Celso Furtado and the *SUDENE*. He examines the *SUDENE*'s plans in detail, criticizing them on a number of grounds, notably the planners' relative inattention to the region's educational needs and their failure to relate regional planning to national objectives. He shares some of the misgivings of many Latin Americans about certain aspects of foreign aid programs, particularly when introduced on a crash basis, as has been the case with the current United States' program for this region.

Professor Robock also makes a number of other points that are worth pondering, among them: (1) that subdivision of the Nordeste's large properties into smaller units would merely "aggravate an already bad situation," and that it would be more rational to consolidate many small farms into larger (potentially more efficient) units; (2) as such consolidation occurs and as primitive hoe culture gives way to modern agricultural techniques, the