

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