

books display beautiful representations of the art of Orozco, Rivera, Siqueiros, and Tamayo. Unfortunately, these colorful publications are both somewhat superficial, perhaps the inevitable price we must pay for popular and pictorial history.

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*Justo Rufino Barrios and Central American Union.* By JOHN D. MARTZ. Gainesville, 1963. University of Florida Press. Latin American Monographs. No. 21. Bibliography. Pp. 52. Paper.

The most recent of the Latin American Monograph Series is a brief study of Justo Rufino Barrios' efforts to restore the Federation of Central America. Born in 1835, Barrios early became a member of the Guatemalan Liberals seeking an end to decades of Conservative dictatorship. He was the military chief of the junta which took office by rebellion in 1871. Barrios was elected President of Guatemala the next year and remained in office until his death in 1885.

As Central America's Liberal strongman of that era, he consistently led the confederation movement. His first attempt, in 1876, was by diplomatic means, and it was terminated by typical Central American squabbling. Then, as his reform program strengthened him in Guatemala, he prepared for a federation by force. On February 28, 1885, he proclaimed the reestablishment of the Central American Union and called upon the citizens of all of the five republics to join him. While many Central Americans favored his scheme, others were afraid, and the governments of El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica mobilized against an expected invasion. Barrios attacked El Salvador and was killed in battle only a few days later, leaving no heir to his plans.

According to the author Barrios might have succeeded if the President of El Salvador had "moved to his side." But he did not, and that is the story of Central American Federation.

Martz has relied heavily on well-known sources such as Burgess' biography of Barrios. He provides more detail than can readily be found, but offers standard interpretations.

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*Cuba. Tragedy in Our Hemisphere.* By MAURICE ZEITLIN and ROBERT SCHEER. New York, 1963. Grove Press, Inc. Notes. Tables. Appendices. Pp. 316. Paper. \$ .95.

Maurice Zeitlin and Robert Scheer have written a readable, informative introduction to the Cuban Revolution which should be especially useful to the general reader. Although both men visited Cuba, their book is based upon a variety of published sources, and is not an impressionistic work. As they explain in the preface; "the visits did, however, help to give us a 'feel' for the process we were describing and to verify the conclusions reached." These conclusions do not fit the usual press interpretations, but they are well founded and based upon an understanding of historical change. The authors present the Revolution as a process, with its roots in the past, and its future course as subject to change. Thus, they do not write about conspiracies, "betrayed revolutions," or inevitable developments.

The first two chapters present in capsule form the historical background of Cuban society and U. S.-Cuban relations. These chapters prepare the foundation for the next seven chapters which discuss the development of the Revolution to 1962. The basic theme presented is summarized in a quotation from the sociologist Robert K. Merton concerning the "self-fulfilling prophecy." According to Merton, such an interpretation of conditions is "in the beginning, a false definition of the situation evoking a new behavior which makes the originally false conception come true." Zeitlin and Scheer portray the actions of the United States government as stemming from such a false definition. An almost paranoid