

that era is a very pleasant example of the wide range of topics encompassed by this work.

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*Uruguay's New Path: A Study in Politics During the First Colegiado, 1919-1933.* By GÖRAN G. LINDAHL. Stockholm, 1962. Library and Institute of Ibero-American Studies. Tables. Notes. References. Bibliographical Index. General Index. Pp. 369. Paper.

For a country whose contributions to the science of politics have been as long extended and as significant as those of Uruguay, it is surprising that no more studies in depth about its political system have been published. A short time ago the first volume of Dr. Vanger's very good study of the Batlle administrations helped fill the void. Now Dr. Göran G. Lindahl, a thoroughgoing Swedish scholar, gives us in English translation an excellent analysis of the short decade from 1919 to 1933 during which time Uruguay conducted possibly the most novel political experiment ever undertaken in the New World: the division of the executive authority of the state between two independent agencies, the president and the National Council of Administration, during what was known as the first *colegiado*. Lindahl's study actually antedates the first Vanger volume in publication date.

The *colegiado* has, since 1952, been undertaken in Uruguay in undiluted form (as was not the case from 1919 to 1933) and it still is a matter of controversy. Its first round was a consequence of the determination of José Batlle that Uruguay must have a stabilizing factor introduced in its government to circumvent the potential for dictatorship provided in most Latin American states by a unipersonal presidency. Batlle was a highly charismatic and influential figure; his impress on Uruguay was enormous. The two ventures with the *colegiado* or collegiate executive have been but the most dra-

matic of many instances of political experimentation which Uruguay has undertaken.

Lindahl deals relatively lightly with the period prior to 1919; this is by design, not inadvertence. His concentration on the fourteen years in which the *colegiado* operated in that period is meticulous and thorough. The writing is vivid and many nuances and side avenues of the complex politics of the time are carefully explored. In some degree the decade of the 'twenties reflected a political duel between the two great figures of Batlle and Luis Alberto de Herrera, the Blanco leader, but it was also a time of testing whether parties would take precedence over personalities. The author's conclusion is that the nature of the constitution operative during that period and the manner of party functioning were in general favorable influences on the development of popular government. At the same time, he credits additional factors with contributions to the development of democratic stability in Uruguay: education, religious toleration, economic growth, and others.

The author includes considerable statistical material either as appendices or in the text of his study. His use of sources has been thoroughgoing, though he appears not to have made use of the careful studies of Philip B. Taylor, Jr., one of the few studies of Uruguayan politics.

The Lindahl study is, in short, an outstanding contribution to our knowledge of a highly important period in the political development of one of Latin America's most significant states. It deserves a place on the shelf of every Latin Americanist.

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#### OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

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