

BOOK NOTICES

GENERAL

Political Systems of Latin America. Edited by MARTIN C. NEEDLER. Princeton, N. J., 1964. D. Van Nostrand Company, Inc. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 545.

Textbook approaches to Latin American politics have been divided traditionally into two categories: comprehensive generalizations and country by country analyses. The title of this collaborative text does not make it clear that the book belongs to the latter category. This may be because the editor, Martin C. Needler, a University of Michigan political scientist, *does* generalize briefly in the volume's twenty-first chapter. Although political scientists are preponderant among the sixteen contributors, three historians (Joseph Barager, C. A. M. Hennessy, and Rayford Logan), one economist, and one journalist are included. The contributors, for the most part, have already written extensively about their assigned countries. It is no great surprise, therefore, to find that George Blanksten is the author of the chapter on Ecuador, that James Busey writes on Costa Rica, and that John Martz is responsible for Guatemala and Colombia. The chapters all follow the same basic design. They begin with social and economic backgrounds, go on to examine historical factors, political processes, and government institutions, and conclude with issues of public policy. A brief bibliography follows each chapter.

Although space is allotted in proportion to national size and importance, students will applaud the thorough treatment given the small countries. Charles W. Anderson has been particularly skillful in revealing the political contours of El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Central themes are often used to emphasize unique

qualities in large as well as small countries. Thus, Nicaragua's Somoza family becomes a focal point for Anderson, and Göran Lindahl has focussed upon Venezuela. Hennessy's account of Cuba and Leo Lott's studies of Paraguay and the role of Batlle in Uruguay.

Venezuela are among the more routine pieces. (Surely Paraguay is *not* "the third smallest country in Latin America.") (p. 381) Federico Gil may be theoretically sound in his coverage of Chilean political parties, but undergraduates will grow impatient with his colorless prose. The majority of the chapters, however, show stylistic grace and imagination. Among these examples are Busey's account of the time when Figueres said that Somoza was as "crazy as a goat in the sun," and Anderson's sketch of Maximiliano Hernández Martínez as a Theosophist who used green lights strung through the streets of San Salvador to halt a smallpox epidemic.

In balance, Needler's volume is successful, though it should be used, as the editor himself suggests, in conjunction with other works. In too many chapters, the Spanish imperial legacy and the effects of the wars of independence are given little substance, while only lip service is paid to the influence of Tío Sam.

HUGH M. HAMILL, JR.

University of Connecticut.

Educación diplomática antigua y moderna. By PEDRO UGARTECHE. Buenos Aires, 1964. Emecé Editores. Index. Pp. 123.

The then ambassador of Peru to Argentina, Pedro Ugarteche, has set forth his ideas on the teaching and practice of diplomacy from the early Renaissance to the present, along with a brief bibliography of principal works on diplomacy and a few apt quotations

from that "diplomat's diplomat," Jules Cambon. Perhaps the most interesting section is the last, which outlines an *Academia diplomática y aula internacional* established by Peru as a model for training in diplomacy. Removed from the arena of power politics and concrete issues, studies of abstract diplomacy tend to seem a little bloodless and unreal. This one is no exception.

Inflation and Growth in Latin America.

Edited by WERNER BAER and ISAAC KERSTENETZKY. Homewood, Ill., 1964. Richard D. Irwin, Inc. Notes. Tables. Appendix. Index. Pp. 542. \$9.50.

This publication of the Economic Growth Center of Yale University contains a number of interpretations of recent economic affairs to interest Latin Americanists. It consists of papers and comments presented at the Conference on Inflation and Economic Growth held at Rio de Janeiro from January 3 to 11, 1963. About eighty scholars, mostly economists, gathered there to sort out and clarify "the too many conflicting points of view" regarding inflation and growth in Latin America. Only a third of them were Latin Americans.

A general division was apparent throughout the conference: monetarists, who regard price stability as a necessary prerequisite for sustained economic growth, and structuralists, who look upon inflation as the result of maladjustments in developing economies and believe that efforts to restrain price increases may cause unemployment and stagnation. While no resolution of this conflict emerged from the discussions, the play of mind on contemporary economic problems and the invocation of examples to prove points make rewarding reading for students of Latin America. It was apparent that the growth rates of the several countries have varied widely and that it is risky to link them either with inflation or stability. The experiences of other areas seemed to bear little relevance for Latin America. The origins of wage-price spirals came in for much analysis.

Senseless spirals were, of course, deplored, but so were some of the restrictive policies of the International Monetary Fund.

Through this long and generally impressive collection of papers and comments obtrude Latin America's familiar problems. Looming largest is the retarded character of agricultural development and the maldistribution of land. The failure of the area as a whole to recover from the great depression—in fact, its serious decline in exports during a time of burgeoning world trade—is alarming. Highly discouraging factors are the lag in education, inadequate tax systems, misdirection of investment, rapid population growth and urbanization, and insufficient transportation. Attitudes such as the casual acceptance of chronic budgetary deficits and the printing of money seem unwholesome. Defeatism and timidity on the part of the authorities, the frailty of most labor unions and their tendency to be hostile to governments, and the inability of victimized sectors of the public to channel their needs to policy makers reflect long-standing historical conditions. The lack of a strong consensus in nearly every country makes for ineffective application of remedies or constructive programs by governments and often for capricious and unjust measures.

Excellent summaries by Richard Ruggles and W. Arthur Lewis in the beginning of the book may provide historians with the essence of this long conference, but the detailed papers and comments, trite and technical as a few of them are, offer much information. Particularly recommended are those by Graeme S. Dorrance, Dudley Seers, Kalman H. Silvert, Arnold C. Harberger, Alfredo Navarrete, Tom E. Davis, and David Felix. A historian is likely to agree fully with the complaint of the economists regarding the lack of hard factual data on Latin America but also to wonder at the self-confidence with which opinions are asserted here.

JOHN E. FAGG

New York University