

aristocratic and paternalistic thinking which prevents rational economic decision-making and inhibits progress. Moreover, such attitudes prevent workers from acquiring a genuine sense of participation in economic growth and in the national life. The essays by Whyte and McMillan show that the appearance of modern labor-management bargaining structures belies the actual continuance of traditional relations. Effective local, day-to-day bargaining seldom exists; unions seek redress through political action, thus binding themselves to politicians, parties, and political agitation.

Silvert emphasizes that economic change without concurrent social and political change would be unwise. Capitulation to totalitarian systems of the right or left in order to promote economic growth must be avoided through strengthening progressive, democratic unions. In this role Hawkins believes that the Organización Regional Inter-Americana de Trabajadores is signally important. ORIT's promotion of democratic labor unions must be increasingly supported by the United States. Ample evidence demonstrates that Latin American unions can be subverted and "used" by governments and by management. Nevertheless, the authors generally agree with Alexander that in Latin America unions may be the prime hope in modernizing national life and in developing institutions within which continuing change may take place and a pluralistic society maintained.

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Organized Labor in Latin America. By ROBERT J. ALEXANDER. New York, 1965. The Free Press. Studies in Contemporary Latin America. Bibliographical Note. Index. Pp. 274.

It is ironic that urban labor, the most rapidly expanding social and political force in contemporary Latin America, has inspired so few interpretative studies. To rectify this deficiency one of the nation's foremost experts on economic and political developments of Latin America has written this book, an outstanding contribution to the field.

Three perceptive chapters introduce the basic characteristics and problems of the working classes in Latin America and accentuate the fundamental differences between trade unions there and their counterparts to the North. The interests of Latin American workers are not limited to monetary considerations alone; they cover the whole spectrum of socio-economic reforms. Furthermore, workers' nationalism in those countries mitigates class consciousness and frequently aligns the laborers with those elements in the middle classes which promote

industrialization and resist foreign economic encroachment. Plagued by chronic inflation, labor in Latin America often consents to employer paternalism and fringe benefits in lieu of additional wages.

A high degree of politicalization also characterizes labor movements in Latin America. Be it caused by the political propensities of early immigrant leaders, the attractiveness of subsidies from friendly political parties, or the benefits of legislation over collective bargaining, it generally results in politicians using labor rather than serving it. Professor Alexander concludes that politicalization under dictatorships jeopardizes the material interests of the working class. In my opinion, however, this conclusion should be qualified. Though the real wages of skilled labor declined under Perón and Castro, the combination of greater fringe benefits and wages actually improved the standard of living of most unskilled workers. Nor should we surmise that the development of progressive governments will decrease labor's political proclivities. On the contrary, the growth of state and mixed industries fostered by the democratic left will inevitably make the government an interested party in the process of collective bargaining. Labor will then have a greater stake in electing sympathetic officials.

The major portion of *Organized Labor in Latin America* presents a concise summary of labor movements in the Latin American republics as well as the nonrepublican areas of the Caribbean. The key word in the title is "organized"; the author is primarily interested in describing the activities of anarcho-syndicalist, socialist, communist, Catholic, and syndicalist labor confederations. But since a large segment of labor is not organized—especially in the less developed nations—this book is of limited application. It is nonetheless the principal reference on labor in Latin America.

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GORDON PACKARD, JR.

A Thousand Days. John F. Kennedy in the White House. By ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, JR. Boston, 1965. Houghton Mifflin Company. Index. Pp. v, 1087. \$9.00.

Arthur M. Schlesinger reveals again his prize-winning ability to express ideas and describe personal characteristics and actions in a way that rivets the attention of the reader. *A Thousand Days* is a remarkably readable and detailed chronicle of the three years of the Kennedy administration. It has the full flavor that comes from intimate observation. It is vividly autobiographical as it reveals the thinking and attitudes of the author. It is also undoubtedly repre-