

against over-reliance upon the democratic left, which often incorrectly believes that it can outdo the Communists in achieving social change, and cites Juan Bosch as a primary example of this failure to keep pace with reality.

At all times Ambassador Morrison delighted in exposing political and diplomatic corruption and in so doing shed considerable light upon contemporary hemispheric problems.

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The Caribbean: Its Health Problems. Edited by A. CURTIS WILGUS. Gainesville, 1965. University of Florida Press. The Caribbean Conference Series. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 273. \$7.50.

Students of Latin America, particularly those from the United States, have shown surprisingly little interest in the historical development and contemporary significance of health and sanitation problems in that region. Yet the widespread introduction of modern medicines and improved public health technology is chiefly responsible for the spiraling population increases that constantly challenge the best efforts of planners and developers. Indeed future historians may well conclude that the most significant innovation in twentieth-century Latin America was the sharp drop in the death rate so dramatically produced by modern medicine. In spite of commendable progress in health and sanitation there is still much to be done, however, as is made abundantly clear in *The Caribbean: Its Health Problems*.

This volume—the proceedings of the Fourteenth Annual Caribbean Conference—contains twenty-one chapters on such various topics as “Physical and Cultural Environment,” “Food and Nutrition,” “Sanitation,” “Diseases,” “Health Administration,” and “Agencies Engaged in Health Activities.” As would be expected, the chapters vary considerably in quality, but in the opinion of the reviewer chapters 1, 5, 6, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, and 21 are particularly authoritative and informative. Chapter 21, on “Bibliography and Reference Sources,” although far from complete, amply demonstrates that the historian interested in the modern medical history of the Caribbean will not lack for sources. The absence of any satisfactory chapter by a medical historian is the most notable omission in an otherwise broadly conceived volume. Another weakness is that the Introduction makes no effort to correlate or unify the diverse themes in the book but stands apart as a disconnected segment. But in spite of such minor weaknesses and the inevitable “shotgun” approach of

this kind of publication, one can only welcome its appearance. It offers a substantial amount of data (supplemented by some sixty-six charts and tables) in a neglected field, and it will do much to alert students to the broad significance of health problems in Latin America.

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The Background of Nationalism and Other Essays. By HORACIO DE LA COSTA, S. J. Manila, 1965. Solidaridad Publishing House. Pp. 89. Paper.

Readings in Philippine History. Edited by HORACIO DE LA COSTA, S. J. Manila, 1965. The Bookmark, Inc. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 351. Paper.

Horacio de la Costa is a historian and Jesuit priest of outstanding distinction. His *Jesuits in the Philippines* published by the Harvard University Press is in fact the most distinguished monograph written by a Filipino scholar in the twentieth century. He is currently serving as provincial general of the Philippine province of the Society of Jesus, the first Filipino in history to hold this post.

While one may argue with some of the choices in his *Readings in Philippine History*, the overall selection of various interpretations of Philippine development from the sixteenth century to the present is judicious and comprehensive. No one could marshal a better collection, and most of us would do a much less satisfactory job. The usefulness of this book of readings, however, is largely confined to the classroom and for this purpose it was intended.

The Background of Nationalism and other Essays, on the other hand, is a thin volume. Yet it is stimulating, laced with fresh insights and lucidly written. The essays cover a multitude of inter-related topics ranging from sweeping interpretations of Philippine history to the current social revolution in Asia, from Rizal as a humanist, political thinker, and stylist to the role of religion in a free community. He warns contemporary nationalists not to overlook the Spanish colonial origins of Philippine nationhood, for he quite correctly points out how the *pax hispanica* did much to create the modern nation. His view is admirably balanced in that he assesses with urbanity and wit the various contributions that the Malays, the Chinese, the Spaniards, and the North Americans have made to the development of that unique culture. One would hope, as Philippine national-