

BOOK NOTICES

Política y sociedad en una época de transición, de la sociedad tradicional a la sociedad de masas. By GINO GERMANI. Buenos Aires, 1965. Editorial Paidós. Pp. 266. Paper.

The reader familiar with Germani's voluminous publications will find little new in this collection of published studies, some reworked, dating from 1956 to 1962. But even if "basic Germani," this book is provocative, varied, and worth reading. The author discusses his theories of social change and the transition from traditional to industrial society, presents a historical schematization of Latin American development, and offers specific studies on Argentina, treating immigration, the broadening political base, Peronism, and the family.

Statistical and historical data measure change in Latin America and Argentina, opposing those areas to a theoretical structure. Germani emphasizes social-psychological factors that demonstrate conditions dissimilar from those of the classic models for development. He reiterates that change creates imbalances and tensions in social structures which include unequally developed segments and in which traditional power groups have an inbuilt "ideological traditionalism." The essay analyzing Peronism and contrasting it to European fascist movements, written in 1956, contains a credo that lends personal and historical interest.

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The Voice of Latin America. By WILLIAM BENTON with KALMAN SILVERT. Foreword by ADLAI E. STEVENSON. New York, 1965. Harper and Row, Publishers. Notes. Charts. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xx, 202. Paper. \$1.60.

This is a new edition of an account first published in 1961 of a tour made by Benton, now United States ambassador to UNESCO, and Governor Stevenson in Latin America. It gives a

perceptive analysis of Latin American problems and suggestions for their solution. Details have been changed here and there in the text, mostly to bring facts and statistics up to date and occasionally to soften alarmist warnings. Tables have been made more legible, but the excellent photographs of the first edition are gone. (Originally reviewed in *HAHR*, XLII, 267-269.)

An Atlas of Latin American Affairs.

Text by RONALD M. SCHNEIDER. Maps by ROBERT C. KINGSBURY. New York, 1965. Frederick A. Praeger, Publishers. Index. Pp. 136. \$4.00.

Reaction to this volume will undoubtedly vary according to the sophistication of the reading public. The beginning undergraduate and the layman who occasionally scan newspaper editorials may find the presentation useful. It distills and spoonfeeds to the reader salient data on Latin America; it helps dispel the myth of the area's homogeneity; and it suggests to the uninitiated that the map can be a useful tool in grasping the essence of regional differentiation. In contrast, the professional Latin Americanist may find the offering short on illumination and long on frustration. Sixty maps, a mishmash of facts, and some loosely organized generalizations do not justify the book's presumptuous title. The cartography is more distinguished by quantity than quality. Some of the maps are difficult to read, others so generalized as to be meaningless, and still others only incidentally correlated with the text. The professional competence of both Kingsbury and Schneider is too well established to be cast in doubt by this effort. The book's shortcomings can probably be traced to other sources. One suspects that the publishers insisted on a hastily manufactured, low-priced product for the bargain basement trade. If so, they got precisely what they paid for.

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