

Mr. Lansford's research included numerous conversations with aging Villista veterans, and others who knew Villa personally. For his written and published sources he has relied heavily upon secondary writers, most of whom seem to be admirers of Villa. With this information as his foundation and employing the form of a novel, the writer endeavors to reconstruct Villa's thought, speech, and action in various episodes of his life. As a vehicle of expression the fictional form is undoubtedly more flexible than historical narrative, but it leaves the reader in some doubt as to how much is actually Villa and how much is Lansford.

The author has succeeded admirably in giving a picture of the Pancho Villa of his own interpretation, for his style is breezy and sustains the interest well. Since he is openly *villista* in his sympathies, however, Carranza and other mortal enemies of Villa are handled rather roughly, and in ways that will not appeal to their *aficionados*. Also there are a number of points that are open to question, such as the inference (p. 247) that the Columbus raid was made by subordinates without Villa's authority and the statement (p. 262) that American go-betweens were involved in Villa's final surrender.

Stanford University

CLARENCE C. CLENDENEN

La unión de Centro América (tragedia y esperanza). Ensayo político-social sobre la realidad de Centro América. 2nd ed. By ALBERTO HERRARTE GONZÁLEZ. Guatemala, 1963. Centro Editorial "José de Pineda Ibarra" del Ministerio de Educación Pública. Maps. Appendix. Pp. 427. Paper.

Alberto Herrarte González, distinguished lawyer and foreign minister of Guatemala, logically and persuasively pleads the cause of Central American union in this well-written exposition. The first half of the work is political history; the latter part deals with economic, social, and foreign influences. The writing is lucid and to the point. Herrarte has little to say by way of praise or condemnation of individuals. His "devils," even Frederick Chatfield, are not very devilish.

The point of view of the author is made clear in the preface: Because sociology is the science of social crisis, he feels that the problem of Central America should be studied from the standpoint of the sociologist, particularly Karl Mannheim. Herrarte asserts that narrative history is decadent, but he justifies publishing another example by the need to find the antecedents and consequences of actions since Independence. Not only does he find these antecedents and conse-

quences, but he also suggests desirable socio-economic patterns to follow in developing the nation.

The author is convinced that the movement of the colonial capital in 1773 from present day Antigua to what is now Guatemala City was a major factor in the fractionalization of Central America. In less than fifty years the new capital did not have time to acquire the dignity and prestige necessary to command the loyalty of the population. As a city it was younger than most of the regional centers. Yet Herrarte suggests that today the establishment of a new capital on the order of Brasília would be a binding force in the reunited republics.

Overall this is an excellent study. The chapters analyzing the political agreements since 1824 are sufficiently detailed so as to give the reader a notion of ideas current at the time the proposals were made. His chapter on ODECA reflects his own considerable contribution to its development. Since no work is perfect, it is necessary to point out one minor error (p. 68), a reference to "the pirate, Juan Morgan" [surely Henry] who attacked Porto Belo and Panama in 1670. The student will wish to bring his information up-to-date by noting the rapid economic progress made since 1955 under plans similar to those outlined by Herrarte.

Mankato State College

CYRIL ALLEN

Empires in the Wilderness. Foreign Colonization and Development in Guatemala, 1834-1844. By WILLIAM J. GRIFFITH. Chapel Hill, 1965. University of North Carolina Press. Maps. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 332. \$7.50.

Without reopening the old controversy over the value of narrow specialized monographs as against broad interpretative studies one can readily recognize the merit of this new book by William Griffith. The author denied himself the leisure of retracing the old and familiar paths of Central American history and has painstakingly pioneered in a new domain with a meticulously researched work. The result is an exacting account for the serious scholar.

The title is possibly misleading. No empires rose in the Central American wilderness. Efforts at foreign colonization proved abortive, and development remained conspicuous by its absence. But the account of what actually happened reveals in concrete form some of the underlying trials and tribulations confronting Guatemala during its formative years of transition from colony to nation. Specifically the book details the unsuccessful career of the British Eastern Coast