

earlier works of Félix Luna might well expect it to be the final word on the life and politics of Hipólito Yrigoyen. It is not.

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Alvear. By FÉLIX LUNA. Buenos Aires, 1958. Libros Argentinos. Pp. 332. Paper. \$2.50.

Marcelo Torcuato de Alvear (1868-1942) was an Argentine aristocrat who early joined the Radicals. For many years and even while president of the republic (1922-1928) his politics were a matter of *noblesse oblige*, and he often lived in France between political forays. Luna sheds no new light on those years. He treats them briefly so as to focus on Alvear's more serious activities in trying to lead the Radicals back to power after Justo José de Uruburu's coup of 1930. Alvear failed, says Luna, because he could never see national affairs other than superficially, and because neither he nor anyone else was able to draw the broken party back together again. The book has a modicum of research in it and reflects a good knowledge of blow-by-blow politics. Luna's postulates are probably sound: for example, that the Radicals constantly fell short during the 1930s and early 1940s because they made no meaningful appeal to the people but, instead, were concentrating on just the thing which the dictators could always thwart, a free access to the polls. The chief difficulty with this book is that it tends to see people in two dimensions, and political groupings without contexts or relationships. Thus for those of us who did not live in Argentina during the 1920s and 1930s this book has only limited value.

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Independence or Death! The Story of the Paraguayan War. By CHARLES J. KOLINSKI. Gainesville, 1965. University of Florida Press. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 236. \$6.50.

The most disastrous of all Latin American wars has been the most neglected. True, Brazilian and Argentine historians have written valuable accounts of the Paraguayan War, and Uruguayan scholars have produced a few good studies. But no Paraguayan historian, with the possible exception of the expatriate Arturo Rebaudi, has yet seen fit to write a scholarly treatise of the conflict that all but annihilated his country. Historians in countries other than the four combatants in the War of the Triple Alliance also have failed to exploit this potentially rich field.