

Antonio José de Irisarri, escritor y diplomático, 1786-1868. 2nd ed. By RICARDO DONOSO. Santiago, 1966. Universidad de Chile. Facultad de Filosofía y Educación. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp. 304. Paper.

Once again Ricardo Donoso has demonstrated his deep understanding of early Chilean history by revising his biography of Antonio José de Irisarri, adopted Chilean, diplomat, polemicist, and revolutionary. In this second edition he has added information derived from recently published documentary series concerning some of Irisarri's close associates. Donoso interlaces his interesting commentary with letters and documents which serve to develop his subject.

Irisarri was fortunate enough to appear on the scene at a most strategic moment. Born in Central America, he adopted revolution and Chile with equal enthusiasm. Because of his close association with Bernardo O'Higgins, he became the first Chilean diplomatic representative in London. There he tried to secure recognition for the infant republic and a loan to finance some of the programs formulated by the O'Higgins government. Irisarri was eventually successful on both scores, after no end of difficulties, intrigue, and obstacles. With success he received word of the overthrow of the O'Higgins government, resigned his post in London, and began a career best characterized as wandering. Returning to the Americas, he participated in the government of the Union of Central America. After this was destroyed he went back to Chile and his family and lent his services to the regime of Diego Portales, although Irisarri's close relations with O'Higgins always made him suspect.

What follows is an adventure story. Irisarri was eventually destroyed politically in Chile, and once again he sought residence away from his adopted country and his family, wandering in Ecuador and Colombia and always trying to clear his name of any suspicion of public misconduct. He was never successful and died away from his adopted country, embittered and suspected.

What emerges, nevertheless, is a picture of a fascinating man who was associated with most of the important Latin Americans during the early part of the nineteenth century. The author not only sheds new light on the character of these statesmen but he presents information to clear Irisarri and demonstrate that he was more a victim of partisan politics and his own political errors than anything else.

Donoso has thus performed a valuable service in revising and

enlarging this biography. It contains not only important documents but a lengthy bibliography dealing with Irisarri and individuals with whom he had close association. The book is an important addition to the literature on the rather confused early national period of Chilean history.

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Argentina. The Divided Land. By THOMAS F. MCGANN. Princeton, 1966. D. Van Nostrand Company. Maps. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 127. Paper. \$1.45.

According to its preface this book is an analysis of "Argentina's national and international situation in terms of the dilemmas posed by the geographical strengths and weaknesses of the nation, its historical experience, and the cultural value system or social psychology of the people" (pp. 4-5). About half of the book is devoted to a historical survey which emphasizes the 1930-1965 period without neglecting the more important features of earlier eras. In general this section is very well done; there are good explanations of the causes of the 1930, 1943, and 1955 revolutions and an outstanding analysis of the Peronist period which points out both its positive and its negative aspects. On the other hand, the author is much too critical of Yrigoyen and probably not critical enough of Frondizi. There appear to be relatively few factual errors; however, the brevity with which many topics are treated may well lead the reader to erroneous conclusions.

The historical survey is followed by an excellent chapter on "Argentina and the World Outside" which emphasizes four major features of Argentine foreign policy: neutralism, absolute sovereignty, nonintervention, and leadership in Latin America. The author demonstrates Argentina's virtually constant devotion to these principles for over a century. It might be added that the analysis of United States-Argentine relations is remarkably free of pro-U. S. bias.

The final section is a very interesting interpretation of "Argentine Development and Social Psychology." In answer to the question asked by all students of Argentine affairs, "What is lacking for the country to complete the advance to modernism?" the author replies: "Probably psychological maturity . . . Argentina needs to make a psychological transition that will work toward the greater integration of the people and release energy for modernization, energy now blocked by the social tensions and fragmentation caused by conflicting value attitudes" (p. 111). The book closes with this prophetic state-