

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-

ment: "If the crisis of this generation drifts on, under titular management of the Radical Party, it is difficult to see how Argentina can escape another dictatorship" (p. 117).

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Política británica en el Río de la Plata. 4th ed. By RAÚL SCALABRINI ORTIZ. Buenos Aires, 1965. Editorial Plus Ultra. Pp. 359. Paper.

This work is a compilation of speeches delivered and published by the author in Argentina, Europe, and elsewhere from 1930 to 1940. It is clear that what is generally intended for the ear is not necessarily good for the eye, especially if it is not thoroughly revised. According to the preface, the goal of this book is to convince the reader of the truculence of Great Britain in her economic and political relations with Argentina (pp. 9-13).

The author assumes that the reader is well acquainted with the history of the Río de la Plata region. Throughout the narrative, for example, "Vedia" is generously quoted, but not until p. 94 are we told that this is the author of a *Financial History of Argentina*. The same is true of other carelessly cited references (pp. 50, 95, 96, 207). The account of how the British froze land sales in the province of Buenos Aires during 1824 (pp. 91-92) is a contribution from Nicolás de Avellaneda's *Tierras Públicas* (p. 101); yet nothing is said about the publication of this work or where to find it. The diplomatic and military intrigues leading to the creation of Uruguay (pp. 117-136) are well told, but the author ignores the sources of his frequent quotations (pp. 127-128). Correspondence between Lord Liverpool and the Duke of Wellington is treated in the same manner (p. 85).

Although marred by disorganization, repetition, unnecessary circumlocution, and Olympian contempt for the footnote, Scalabrini's work is penetrating in depth and scope. Such revered writers as Ingenieros and Alberdi are properly flagellated because of their insistence on portraying Argentina's history as a cyclical conflict between *porteños* and *provincianos* (p. 62), a cliché readily canonized by American historians. In spite of its shortcomings, *Política británica en el Río de la Plata* is the most ambitious attempt that has appeared yet on a subject well known to South American scholars but considerably confused by Latin Americanists in the United States.

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