

Doctrina política de San Martín. A través de su correspondencia. By JORDÁN B. GENTA. Buenos Aires, 1965. Editorial Nuevo Orden. Bibliography. Pp. 115. Paper. \$120.00 (Arg.). (Distributed by Editorial Huemul, Buenos Aires.)

To the author of this study the only solution of the current Argentine national crisis lies in a return to the conservative principles and firm leadership of the age of Rosas. He maintains that the Argentine people have been deceived by the lure of the false doctrines of liberalism and popular sovereignty throughout much of their nation's history. To illustrate San Martín's aversion to the ideas of Bernardino Rivadavia and other early Argentine liberal leaders, Genta cites excerpts from the correspondence of the liberator with Rosas and other South Americans.

Little new documentation is offered in this study to affirm the well-known conservative political views of San Martín. Considering the stated political philosophy of the author, it is not surprising that he portrays Rosas as the one who applied San Martín's political tenets and restored social discipline, consolidated national unity, and upheld his nation's honor against the designs of world powers. A further indication of Genta's admiration for the rule of Rosas is his wish that Argentine schools should require their students to study San Martín's correspondence to learn how the Liberator praised Rosas and his principles.

However, this volume is concerned with the political philosophy of San Martín only insofar as it supports the author's thesis that misguided believers in liberalism, secularism, and democracy have led Argentina to its present crisis and are serving today to promote the ends of international Communism. It is evident that Argentina today presents a spectacle of arrested progress. However, one may seriously question whether that nation's current problems can be solved by the return to a state like that of Rosas (or Franco) even if one could believe that San Martín himself would have sanctioned such a regime.

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Juan G. Gregorio de las Heras. Su vida, su obra. By FUED GABRIEL NEILLAR. Buenos Aires, 1965. Círculo Militar. Illustrations. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 617. Paper.

This "biography" of Juan G. Gregorio de las Heras, the able lieutenant of José de San Martín, was written by a colonel in the Argen-

tine army and published by the *Círculo Militar* in Buenos Aires. Once the reader becomes aware of this, he should be fully prepared for its tone and content. After following Las Heras' campaigns in exhausting detail, he learns that when this professional military man became governor of Buenos Aires province he was transformed from a soldier into a statesman: "Así, el hombre de arrojo impetuoso, muchas veces revelado en el fragor del combate, se convirtió en magistrado ecuánime y prudente y en conductor de pueblos in gestación" (pp. 18-19). The relevance of this view as expressed in the *Argentina* of December 1965 should be obvious.

The author lauds "nuestro héroe" (a phrase which quickly becomes shopworn) to the skies, and, as frequently occurs in this genre of Latin American historiography, he finds meanings implicit in the life of his protagonist which are not national or continental but cosmic. Although the subtitle of the volume suggests an extensive biographical study of Las Heras, in actuality over four hundred pages of text are concerned with one decade (1813-1822) in the life of a man who died in 1866 at the age of eighty-five. About the early formative years in his life or the later years of Chilean exile there is little substantial information or insight.

For the reader concerned with the campaign of Argentine troops in Chile during 1813-1814, the preparation of the Army of the Andes in 1814-1817, and the subsequent campaigns in Chile and Peru through 1822 there is much of value here. Tables of organization, journals of day-to-day field activities (in particular the crossing of the Andes in 1817), detailed descriptions of troop movements in the major engagements, and problems of command, particularly as related to Las Heras—all are presented in considerable detail. Herein, certainly, rests the value of the present volume. But its title should indicate this more clearly. The relatively brief bibliographical listing shows that Nellar has used the standard primary and secondary works, but that he has not gone far beyond them.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

Major Trends in Mexican Philosophy. By MARIO DE LA CUEVA *et al.* Translated by A. ROBERT CAPONIGRI. Notre Dame, 1966. University of Notre Dame Press. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 328. \$7.50.

No other Latin American country can boast of a volume in English