

tended to emerge as a leader—for example, in a revolt against the “usurpations” of Buenaventura Báez in 1857, then in the “restoration” following the Spanish occupation in 1863, and again to defend the administration of his friend, President Ulises Espaillat, in 1876. Yet few Caribbean politicians have refused the honor of being president as often as Bonó and meant it.

While a young man Bonó fought against the Haitians, published some fiction, served briefly as deputy and as senator in the national government, and helped to draft the Constitution of 1858. The dictator, Pedro Santanta, drove Bonó and a handful of intellectuals into exile in 1854 but permitted him to return in time to witness the Republic’s annexation to Spain. In spite of poor health, Bonó became War Minister in the government of the Restoration and by 1867 was a justice of the Supreme Court and Minister of Foreign Affairs. At this stage of his life he frequently was suggested for the presidency.

Bonó is remembered primarily as a statesman, and it is his own writings and correspondence that make up the bulk of this book; biographical material is sketchy. Emilio Rodríguez Demorizi, whose busy typewriter has recently given us valuable collections about the Spanish occupation, the Restoration, and Ulises Espaillat, treats Bonó as Santo Domingo’s first sociologist. Bonó’s wide interests are reflected in his essays, speeches, and instructions to his administrative subordinates. His opinions are clear; his own reading is broad and surprisingly reflective of the Enlightenment. He was concerned with the relationship of low living standards and crime; he prescribed programs of broad educational and agricultural reform. He opposed the Samaná cession and any attack on his nation’s sovereignty. He looked to the municipality for the protection of political rights. Always he defended the individual.

Superficially *Papeles de Bonó* resemble the program of scores of nineteenth-century Latin American liberals. Still, as he studied his tormented little homeland from within and without, Bonó looked behind constitutional solutions and argued for the dignified treatment of man as the solution to the world’s racial, economic, and political ills.

Tulane University

THOMAS L. KARNES

*República Dominicana. Clases, crisis y comandos.* By FRANKLIN J. FRANCO. Havana, 1966. Casa de las Américas. Tables. Pp. 274. Paper.

The author of this book, a thirty year-old sociology student at the University of Santo Domingo, indicates his viewpoint in the dedica-

tion: "To the martyrs and heroes of the Dominican Republic, fallen in defense of our sovereignty in the struggle against the Yankee aggressor." This is a Marxist interpretation of Dominican history, and it won a prize from its Cuban publishers. Franco plays up United States intervention, the Trujillo dictatorship, and the recent civil conflict in the Dominican Republic. He sees the economic underdevelopment of the nation as a result of a conspiracy in which nearly all classes—large landowners, aristocracy, military, "bourgeoisie" (always "atrophied"), and North American "capitalists"—have plundered the country at the expense of the proletariat. The laboring classes are represented as the only elements with a social conscience in the class struggle.

According to this view, the establishment of a constabulary under the control of Rafael L. Trujillo, following the occupation of United States Marines (1916-1924), led directly to the brutal "Trujillato," which lasted until 1961. Numerous tables and statistics are included to bolster the author's thesis of economic monopoly by "El Jefe" and foreign and domestic economic interests. Only when Trujillo ceased being useful, according to Franco, did the United States Central Intelligence Agency engineer his assassination in 1961. The dictator's successors, Joaquín Balaguer, Rafael F. Bonnelly, Donald Reid Cabral, Héctor García Godoy, and others, are generally dismissed as tools of United States imperialism. Juan Bosch and his short-lived administration in 1963 receive favorable treatment, but Franco criticizes the former president when he denies the existence of a Dominican class struggle in traditional Marxist terms.

Franco writes of the American intervention in 1965 following the outbreak of civil strife: "From that date forward it is impossible to ignore imperialism. . . . It is evident that [United States] intervention constitutes an act of desperation, appropriate to a decaying imperialism. In so far as our society is concerned, one must note that their attitude is intended to rescue from the abyss our oligarchical groups and our atrophied bourgeoisie, incapable on their own of maintaining themselves in power in the class struggle with the working class and the popular masses" (p. 263). Not surprisingly the author discounts efforts by the United States to reach a solution to the conflict between contestants for the presidency, even after the arrival of the mediators of the Organization of American States. In his opinion, the only useful purpose served by the intervention was to reveal the "real culprits"—the United States, the oligarchs, the bourgeoisie, and reactionary military groups.

Since publication of the book the representative of the "oligarchs,"

Joaquín Balaguer, has been overwhelmingly elected as president, in opposition to the hero of the "proletariat," Juan Bosch. One wonders how Franco will explain this in terms of the class struggle, now that the people have made a clear choice.

Florida State University

RICHARD B. GRAY

*Highways into the Upper Amazon Basin. Pioneer Lands in Southern Colombia, Ecuador, and Northern Peru.* By EDMUND EDWARD HEGEN. Gainesville, 1966. University of Florida Press. Illustrations. Maps. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 168. Paper. \$3.75.

The author of this study is a product of the German University of Prague, with a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, and he is at present Assistant Professor of Geography at that institution. In 1960 he crisscrossed the Upper Amazon Basin on foot, muleback, and motorcycle and by boat during six months of field work. The purpose of this survey was threefold: to recount past attempts to penetrate into the area; to investigate the present processes of migration; and to establish as nearly as possible the potential and the prerequisites for future successful pioneering. He chose six routes for consideration—two each in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, all of them true roads of penetration and all planned to reach navigable waters.

The Upper Amazon Basin is relatively unstudied and unknown; it is, according to Hegen, "East of the Andes, and West of Nowhere" (p. 5). (This does not preclude a ten-page multilingual bibliography.) In the words of Isaiah Bowman, it is a priceless laboratory for the study of cause and effect, with a minimum of city influence. Here in the Basin, experiment upon experiment is already under way: highway construction in rain-forest country, settlement in the humid lowlands, transformation of forest into man-made tropical savannas, cattle raising; and, in the offing, fertilization of tropical lowland soil with volcanic material brought down from the Andes in pipelines, and road tops made from chemical products derived from the forest.

Hegen predicts categorically that the agricultural potential of the Basin will be utilized. Bowman has questioned if the pioneer fringe as a population outlet justifies outlay of capital, and Preston James has also inquired whether pioneering is an outdated solution which only increases the number of subsistence farmers. To these questions Hegen answers that modern pioneering or scientific colonization, supported by all technical, economic, and sociocultural knowledge, will provide the subsistence farmer and landless agricultural worker for the first time with a truly free choice. He may either accept the chal-