

for one, is not convinced that this is a satisfactory explanation of Miranda's action.

The chapters dealing with Bolívar's military career make no attempt to minimize the occasional failures of the Liberator, nor do they exonerate him from responsibility when his temperament or personal involvements led him astray. Bolívar was great because he could rise above obstacles, even when such checks were the result of his own errors, as, for instance, in the debacle of Ocumare (p. 302).

The political ideas of the Liberator are presented, though not in as much detail as one might wish. In general the book adheres to a narrative style of biographical writing rather than to a conceptual one. Thus the social and economic forces which entered into the independence movement are given scant attention. Likewise the ideological conflicts between nationalism and internationalism, libertarian and authoritarian ideas in Bolívar's thought and action do not receive a comprehensive analysis. As a narrative, the book suffers from frequent anticipatory references to events, which the reader, may find incomprehensible, unless he is steeped in the history of Venezuela. This reviewer also regrets that Mijares has failed to take notice of the historical literature on the independence movement which has been published in this country. The studies of Charles C. Griffin, Victor von Hagen, and others would have served him well. For his portrait of Manuelita Sáenz, for example, he still relies on Rumazo's book. On the other hand, it must be said that he does not accept the taboos which Venezuelan historians have favored so long in their treatment of *la amable loca*.

For Venezuela, at least, this biography of the Liberator sets a new standard in the biographical literature on Bolívar. It should be warmly welcomed throughout the Americas.

University of California, Berkeley

GERHARD MASUR

*Psicopatología de Bolívar*. By DIEGO CARBONELL. Caracas, 1965. Universidad Central de Venezuela. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. xcv, 456. Paper.

Although a physician by profession, Diego Carbonell (1884-1945) had a profound interest in history. He was involved in a wide range of his country's affairs and became recognized as an important twentieth-century Venezuelan intellectual. Historians might recall his *General O'Leary íntimo* (Caracas, 1937), a valuable insight into Daniel Florencio O'Leary's activities between 1828 and 1853.

While in Paris as the Venezuelan consul general, the young physi-

cian prepared a manuscript which he afterwards developed into *Psicopatología de Bolívar*. The main feature of his thesis—that Simón Bolívar suffered from epilepsy—was announced previous to his book in an article in the Caracas weekly, *La Revista*, on September 19, 1915, which he entitled “Cuadro sintomático del mal comicial en Bolívar.” The reaction to this article was immediate and extreme. Many critics felt that Carbonell’s views toward the Liberator were denigrating and unpatriotic. The newspapers of Caracas and the provinces aired these criticisms until an intense controversy arose which resulted in Carbonell’s being relieved of his consulate. Undeterred, he brought out the book-length version of his *Psicopatología* in Paris during 1916.

Carbonell’s daughter, María de Lourdes Carbonell de Parra, traces the controversy over her father’s views in her “Introducción” to the second edition of the book. Although the debate quickly descended to the level of personal recrimination, it was important in that it brought the cult of Bolívar to the surface in Venezuelan intellectual circles. This cult, a familiar manifestation of the next two decades, was, of course, a reflection of the more imminent presence and personality cult of General Juan Vicente Gómez.

In addition to the above-mentioned introduction, the second edition of the *Psicopatología* includes both the text of the original edition and a much-revised version (pp. 185-454) on which Carbonell was working at the time of his death. In both versions Carbonell was seeking to combine known facts about Bolívar and his ancestors with various standards of medical and psychological diagnosis in order to confirm his basic hypothesis. While this approach to a historical personality has certain objections, none should deny the author’s mastery of his sources on the Liberator’s life and times, or his considerable erudition in contemporary European medical and historical literature.

Since the evidence which relates to Bolívar’s life before 1812 is extremely fragmentary, I for one find it difficult to subscribe to Carbonell’s clinical conclusions. His method of using scraps of incidental data to support his contentions must also be deplored. On the other hand, the distinctiveness of the Carbonell interpretation, its concern for Simón Bolívar as a human being, and its emphasis on psychological factors which could conceivably have influenced his motivation—all these combine in the two versions printed here to produce a major piece of Bolivariana.

Despite—or perhaps because of—the negative response which it elicited, the *Psicopatología* was significant as a catalyst in Venezuelan historical literature of the early decades of this century. Students of Venezuela in general and of Bolívar in particular, must thank the

Universidad Central for making this forgotten approach to the Liberator's personality available again.

Vanderbilt University

LEÓN HELGUERA

*Robert Sutherland. Un amigo de Bolívar en Haití.* By PAUL VERNA. Caracas, 1966. Fundación John Boulton. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 120. Paper.

The importance of the role of Simón Bolívar in the struggle for the independence of Spanish America cannot be overemphasized. It was a multi-faceted involvement, many of whose aspects may still be the subjects of more intensive studies. This is especially true of the periods of his enforced absences from the mainland, and for this reason any serious investigation of his activities during such periods is a welcome addition. Such is the attempt in Paul Verna's book on Robert Sutherland.

The work deals primarily with the activities of Sutherland in Haiti as they affected Bolívar's exile there. More important, it explores all the preparations behind the scenes for the Venezuelan's two expeditions that sought to bring independence to his homeland. The author has very ably woven the activities of Sutherland, Bolívar, President Alexandre Pétion, diplomats, spies, various subordinates and rivals of Bolívar, and many other characters into an interesting fabric of intrigue and drama. The underlying and recurring theme is the unselfish and often vital role that Sutherland played in this phase of Bolívar's career. Had it not been for the influence and performance of this English merchant, neither the expedition from Los Cayos nor the later one from Jaemel would have gotten off the ground. The final and successful assault against Spanish control in northern South America would certainly have been delayed.

As a monographic study, Verna's book has important merit in setting the record straight on many points, among them the fact that Sutherland resided in Port au Prince and not Los Cayos. On the other hand, the author was unsuccessful in linking Sutherland directly with Bolívar on some occasions when he thought such linking was necessary. This is demonstrated at the time of Bolívar's first audience with President Pétion and by the absence of any direct expression of gratitude from Bolívar to Sutherland during the Los Cayos expedition. These might be the subjects for further investigations.

Finally, it was doubtless the intent of the author that Robert Sutherland should occupy the center of the stage; but the very nature of the script not only gave Bolívar equal billing but allowed him to