

*Breve historia del Paraguay.* By EFRAÍM CARDOZO. Buenos Aires, 1965. Editorial Universitaria de Buenos Aires. Libros del Tiempo Nuevo. Bibliography. Pp. 169. Paper.

Efraím Cardozo's *Breve historia del Paraguay* is one of those sparkling gems of modern Latin American history-writing which deserve a place on any Latin Americanist's bookshelves. Written in clear, concise, and relatively easy Spanish, it might be classified as a thorough and convincing annotated guide to the complex, provocative, and incredible history of one of South America's most often misunderstood republics.

*Breve historia* is No. 33 in a series entitled "Libros del Tiempo Nuevo" of the Biblioteca de América, a project of the Editorial Universitaria de Buenos Aires founded by the University of Buenos Aires. Cardozo, a luminary among Paraguay's versatile contemporary historians, is a prolific analyst of his inland nation's colorful history who has achieved wide recognition for his carefully researched works patterned on the "scientific" historiographical approach. His work is therefore dispassionate and objective; it is dedicated to the effort of providing a comprehensive, factual account of Paraguay's historical evolution, although somewhat lacking in imaginative or creative inferences which could furnish a thesis for the main thrusts in national history.

It traces Paraguay's remarkable story from the Guaraní-speaking indigenous Indian tribes of pre-Columbian times through the eras of Dr. Francia, the two López, and the Chaco War to 1954 and the beginning of the current Age of Alfredo Stroessner. Events, principal actors in Paraguay's drama, the Great Wars, and social, economic, cultural, and political trends, are competently and succinctly portrayed in a descriptive style which closely follows an organizational outline. This format makes the work both easy to consult and highly useful as an immediate reference for factual data related to Paraguay. A subject index is lacking, and indeed may be unnecessary in view of the chronological outline format. A selective bibliography enhances the work.

For the Latin Americanist either north or south of the Rio Grande the major value of this brief record of Paraguay is its meticulous care in presenting a detailed and largely impartial account. It fills a gap in Paraguayan studies which previously called for exhaustive research. Cardozo is at his best in presenting the story prior to 1946. The delicacy of political trends since that date may have helped to make his review of recent events both sketchy and incomplete. The

deficiency, however, detracts but slightly from the overall superiority of this most useful and well-written reference.

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*Brasil. Problema de um continente.* By LIMEIRA TEJO. São Paulo, 1964. Arquimedes Edições. Pp. 158. Paper.

It is not hard to accept Limeira Tejo's message that efficiency, sacrifices, and planning can make a stronger Brazil, but to ask the reader to accept all of his theses about the world is asking a good deal. He states that Brazil, "without the racial divisions and religious minorities which are the root of the national tragedy of the United States" (p. 128), is the only nation in a condition to become the cradle of a New World Renaissance. This Renaissance will allow humanity to live peacefully in one world and will see the death of the two imperialistic, "historically hybrid, socially sterile, and economically finished" (p. 125) tyrannical processes which are on top today. Elaborating on this, Limeira Tejo explains that Brazil is surrounded by less fortunate sister republics which are "already subconsciously integrated" (p. 128) in the plan to make one nation out of South America—the nucleus for the long-cherished communion of all the world's people. Most important, he finds that the Brazilian people are characterized by Western humanism, "the germ of universal society" (p. 128). To show that the United States lacks the humanistic tonic, he provides some statements made by Howard Mumford Jones.

Believers in Limeira Tejo must wish Brazil well in its anti-imperialistic mission. Capitalistic imperialism, he says, entered into two world wars to preserve the price scale by destroying excesses. But modern military conflict brought such technological advances in production that a permanent war—the cold war—became necessary for the market's "statistical equilibrium" (p. 134). "'Limited conflicts' on the periphery of the two worlds" (p. 135), nuclear experiments, and a race for outer space have helped produce destructible things in order to preserve capitalism's "policy of tolerable scarcity" (p. 135).

Brazil, although pictured as "in spectacular development" (p. 128), is described as not yet having reached the point of economic "breakthrough" (p. 53). This, we are told, is because its governments have passed out social benefits at a rate greater than that at which wealth was being formed. The troubles are also ascribed to Brazil's present structure of "semi-capitalist decadence" (p. 60).