

try, reviewing some characteristics of the nation's history, physical geography, and population as well as a more detailed review of resources, economic development, and transportation. In addition, nearly every country is then subdivided into internal subregions for further description. Mexico, for example, has eleven such subregions. For most countries, a final section summarizes a country's geography in terms of future prospects. Often quite pertinent, these summaries are almost the only examples of the author's own ideas and evaluations that come through to the reader. After reading *Latin America* one wonders whether the author has ever been there.

This is, nevertheless, a strong competitor for use in traditional regional courses on Latin America at the college level. The author states clearly in his preface that he drew upon Preston James' standard text (which is still superior to Robinson's in my estimation) and Robert Platt's earlier text, now quite out of date. No teacher, however, should have to defend adopting this text. Its major drawbacks are its gazetteer-like nature and rather dry style. A touch of immediacy, some lively prose, and a bit of the author himself would all be welcome additions to a subsequent edition.

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*Between Maule and Amazon.* By ARNOLD J. TOYNBEE. London, 1967. Oxford University Press. Illustrations. Maps. Index. Pp. vii, 148. \$5.00.

The author of this small volume is a well-known writer devoted to world history whose interest in Latin America seems to have developed rather late. Born in 1889, he had reached the age of sixty-four before he ever traveled in any part of this region. He visited Mexico in 1953, Guatemala in 1958, Puerto Rico in 1962, Venezuela in 1963, and Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile during the last quarter of 1966, several years after achieving fame by publishing his ten-volume *Study of His-*

*tory.* This *magnum opus* revealed a grasp of Latin American history somewhat less than satisfactory to specialists in this field.

Anything published by Arnold Toynbee is likely to be both thoughtful and interesting. The volume now under inspection deals mainly with the countries through which he toured rapidly during the latter part of 1966, although he devotes several pages to Mexico and Guatemala and a few to Venezuela and Puerto Rico and concludes with some generalizations regarding Indian America and Latin America's current efforts at integration. He places Latin America in a global setting with somewhat more emphasis on geography and prequest Indian civilizations than on contemporary affairs, although the latter are accorded more attention in the cases of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Puerto Rico. Most of the facts he presents are likely to be familiar to specialists in this field, but his generalizations and speculations should appeal to all speculative minds. He stresses river basins, deserts, oases, jungles, cities, religions, colonial and contemporary architecture (especially that of Brazil's new capital in the interior), the population explosion, city slums, and the restless masses. His mood, like that of many others of our day, is rather pessimistic. This handsome little book deserves a place in all of our libraries, even though Toynbee has produced a philosophic travelogue rather than an outline of the recent history of the Latin American nations and their foreign relations.

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*The Gringo in Latin America.* By RICHARD WEST. London, 1967. Jonathan Cape. Illustrations. Maps. Pp. 262. 32s. 6d.

This small volume is divided into eighteen chapters, plus a short introduction and an equally short conclusion. Some of the chapter headings will give an indication of style and emphasis: "Mexico: Communists, Tourists, and

a Priest"; "Central America: From Banana Republics to Common Market—O. Henry's Honduras"; "Panama Riots—The Canal—Playing Negro Against Latin"; "Cuba: The American Absence—The Horror Literature"; "Bolivia: The Two Cola Companies"; "Argentina: The Students—Why Argentines Love the French—The British Colony"; "Peru: Are the Latins Colour Blind?" and "The Guianas: Do the Colonial Powers Manage Better?". Several chapters contain comments on wider areas than their headings indicate.

The author's conclusions are based largely on a visit of nearly eight months in late 1965 and early 1966. He spent some time in all the independent countries except Ecuador, but very little in Haiti or Puerto Rico, and probably not much more in the Guianas. Although he praises the work of the Peace Corps and the oil men and the conduct of the U. S. ambassador in Chile, the tone of his narrative is largely critical of both the *Gringos* and the Latin Americans—even Uruguay's renowned José Enrique Rodó! Perhaps it would not be a serious exaggeration if one should describe Richard West as a muckraker, for he seems to have been seeking the unsavory in business, government, and private life. He reveals almost a fondness for gossip, for the vulgar, the obscene, and the profane. "Exploitation" is one of his favorite words, often used when "development" would have been more appropriate. This reviewer can recommend *The Gringo in Latin America* only for the more mature specialists in the recent history of the Americas and in inter-American relations. Others might be misled as well as misinformed.

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*South America and Central America. A Natural History.* By JEAN DORST. New York, 1967. Random House. The Continents We Live On. Illustrations. Maps. Index. Pp. 298. \$20.00.

This well-written and beautifully il-

lustrated book is an excellent introduction to the geography and natural history of tropical America. This region, as the author points out, is one of the most diverse in the world, and its diversity makes sweeping generalizations difficult. Areas which from their map location should be tropical rain forest may in fact be the driest of deserts. Part of this difficulty is here avoided by treating general regions in each of which the main geographic, floral, and faunal features are outlined. The chapter headings often succinctly describe the region involved, for example, the Great Rain Forest, the Amazon Basin, Arid Plateaus and Clay Deserts, North-eastern Brazil; and Glaciers, Lakes, and Dismal Straits, Patagonia, and Tierra del Fuego.

The South American mammalian fauna is, of course, of special interest with its surviving relatives of the camels—the llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas, as well as monkeys, armadillos, sloths, anteaters, and a variety of marsupials second only to those of Australia. The birds, however, are even more spectacular and almost indescribable in their abundance and diversity. The reptiles include giant anacondas and boas, as well as brilliant and deadly coral snakes. Among the amphibia are many tree frogs and toads of brilliant coloration and dangerously poisonous. The fish include such oddities as electric eels and the voracious piranhas (pirayas). The insects, of course, are outstanding not only because of their diversity and evolutionary interest, but also because of their beauty.

The plants also include many interesting forms, although they are less familiar to most readers. Among the most striking are the Araucarias which occur in the south of Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. Some of these beautiful pine-like trees are now widely cultivated. Also worthy of note are the *Nothofagus* species of the extreme south. These trees related to our beeches are associated with an endemic fauna much of which has associations with Australia and New Zealand.

This book is well worth the price for