

pretation, and questions might be raised over several of his conclusions. The brevity of the study has undoubtedly weakened his arguments, as he does not always assemble adequate evidence in support. An example is his contention that after the establishment of the Chilean junta in 1810, there were sufficient qualified persons for administration. What constitutes a qualified administrator? This question is not answered, except for a remark that Chileans had gained experience during the latter years of the colonial period in positions of the "working bureaucracy." But aside from serving on cabildos, not many of the Chileans mentioned in the narrative seem to have had this administrative experience. Throughout the study one receives the impression, in spite of the author's view, that Chile suffered precisely because few people had an idea of what to do or how to do it. For example, in the first Congress business was paralyzed "because neither side was all too sure how to go about running a legislature" (p. 49).

Kinsbruner also attempts to clarify the role of the landed aristocracy in Chile's early governments and also the liberal and conservative positions. As he has indicated in this and other studies, the generally accepted idea that the landed aristocracy alone controlled Chile after independence is not accurate. The discussion of the terms "liberal and conservative," however, becomes a bit confusing, as the author does not clearly define them. O'Higgins is called a "republican" and "liberal," but certainly his liberalism was quite different from that of later Chilean figures whom the author calls "classical liberals." The difference was especially notable in his attitude toward the Church.

It can be seen that this work raises many questions which need investigating. One would hope that in some future more detailed study Kinsbruner will present the evidence to support his conclusions and clarify some of the issues that he raises.

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NATIONAL PERIOD

Mexico. The Struggle for Modernity. By CHARLES C. CUMBERLAND. New York, Oxford University Press. Latin American Histories. Maps. Tables. Index. Pp. 394. \$7.50.

This book is presented by the publisher as a "basic one-volume history," with an emphasis on economic, social, and cultural themes. Such a book is much needed, but difficult to write. Cumberland only partially overcomes the difficulties.

The strength of the book lies in its descriptive passages, some of them hard to equal elsewhere. For example, there are lively and colorful accounts of mining in different epochs and a vivid view of the hard and chaotic conditions in everyday life, especially after the great political upheavals of 1810, 1857, and 1910. Other effective passages are those discussing the railroad ventures in the Díaz period, the Constitution of 1917, and the oil dispute during the 1930s.

It is difficult to write a book of this sort, for although political sources abound, there are precious few on socioeconomic matters, especially for the nineteenth century. Thus Cumberland has been forced to adopt a basically political organization, with the turning points at 1519, 1810, 1821, 1867, and 1910. Within each political period he treats a variety of socioeconomic themes, often scrupulously avoiding discussion of political institutions or events. In doing so, he is frequently inconsistent, and the treatment of similar themes emerges disjointed from one era to the next. His discussion of the Independence movement is in large part political narrative; yet he avoids such narrative for the Revolution after 1910. He devotes considerable space to the Church-state conflict in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but very little to the Church as a colonial institution. While there is a full treatment of the late nineteenth-century hacienda, there is only one page of generalized remarks on the colonial hacienda.

With so few good sources available, there are some surprising omissions in Cumberland's bibliographical essay—for example, François Chevalier's *magnum opus* on the hacienda. Robert A. Potash's study on the Banco de Avío is also omitted, as is Nelson Reed's work on the Caste War of Yucatán. (In fact, this significant social upheaval is not mentioned in the text.) Such omissions are jarring, especially since all the important (and some unimportant) political works appear in the bibliography. For example, numerous books on the Texas Revolution and the war of 1846-1848 are listed, although neither episode is discussed in the text. The omission of articles from the bibliography is also regrettable, for much significant socioeconomic study has appeared in articles, such as those by Chevalier, Howard F. Cline, and Lyle N. McAlister.

These omissions and inconsistencies point to the major weakness of the book, namely that it lacks an overall conceptual framework. Cumberland's principal theme, frequently restated, appears to be the struggle of the Mexican "people" for justice and a better life. The book is basically a success story, a chronicle of socioeconomic progress toward a goal now in part reached. Thus the final chapter

is entitled "At Last." But the author falls short in his purported "attempt to clarify and to explain the social and economic issues which gave the Mexican Revolution such a distinctive stamp" (p. v). For example, he presents no analysis of social classes or of the social dynamics of twentieth-century Mexico. He skirts the major problem of defining the Revolution, though he apparently sees it ending at the unconventional date of 1924. He makes little effort to untangle the complicated question of whether the aims of agrarian and industrial revolutions were complementary or in conflict. In fact, he relegates industrialization to a scant few pages at the end of the book. Also he generally ignores the cultural and intellectual dimensions of modern Mexico.

This book will be useful for its many excellent descriptive passages, but less so as a coherent and critical socioeconomic treatment of Mexican history.

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Heroic Mexico. The Violent Emergence of a Modern Nation. By WILLIAM WEBER JOHNSON. Garden City, 1968. Doubleday and Company. The Mainstream of the World Series. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 463. \$6.95.

Like few other historical phenomena, the Mexican Revolution has attracted the interest of the nonprofessional historian for years. Perhaps it is the magnetic romanticism inherent in the movement itself which prompts the lawyer, the novelist, the traveller, the newsman, the dilettante, and various academic types to try on Clio's mantle. Perhaps we historians have failed in our own work to communicate with the layman. Whatever the reason, library shelves devoted to Mexican Revolutionary history are increasingly crowded with histories compiled by those whose only common credential is a facile pen.

William Johnson, a professor of journalism at UCLA, covers the first thirty years of the Revolution, but his real interest lies in the initial decade, to which he devotes 364 of the 425 pages of text. On one hand, the narrative is lucid, spiced with interesting historical anecdotes, and in most cases factually accurate enough to warrant a cautious endorsement for the nonspecialist. On the other hand, the professional will be made uneasy by the constant oversimplification and the propensity to present one side of a controversial issue as an established fact. Examples exist in every chapter, but by way of illustration one can cite Johnson's categorical statements that Pascual Orozco wanted to execute General Juan Navarro after the capture of