

for a new hero, and Che Guevara is now the leading contender. This little book is a useful guide towards an understanding of why this has occurred.

Lincoln University

PHILIP S. FONER

The Cuban Policy of the United States: A Brief History. By LESTER D. LANGLEY. New York, 1968. John Wiley and Sons. America and the World Series. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 203. Cloth. \$6.96. Paper. \$2.95.

Thanks to Fidel Castro, and more recently to Che Guevara, new books on Cuba would fill to overflowing the proverbial five-foot shelf. Most of them are journalesque, and some of them deserve little more permanence than yesterday's newspaper. That is decidedly not the case with Lester D. Langley's slender volume.

Obviously no exhaustive or encyclopedic account of a complex subject covering a century and a half in time can be given in two hundred pages or less, and Langley would doubtless be the first to admit that he did not intend to do so. He refers to his study modestly as a "historical summary." But the volume rests on thoroughgoing research, and it is readable, objective, sophisticated in tone, and balanced in organization. All in all, it makes a real contribution to the nontransitory literature on troubled Cuba.

The author's account of Cuban developments before the nineteenth century is designedly sketchy; after all, the United States was in no position to develop much of a Cuban policy before the 1780s. As Jefferson and Madison turn their interest to the Pearl of the Antilles, Langley's coverage becomes more complete, even if still summary. His treatment is chronological, and virtually a whole chapter—fortunately more than most studies devote—is given to the period of the Ten Years' War. A good balance is maintained between nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the author resists the temptation to overemphasize the events of 1898. The last substantive chapter, "Batista and Castro," is necessarily less well-documented than earlier portions, but of course it is yet too early to write definitively about the last third of a century, especially when the two people who dominate the stage are as controversial as the ones who give their names to this chapter's title.

The study is generally free of error. A few trivial mistakes in accenting and italicizing occur; the details of Machado's *continuismo* in 1927-1928 are not quite correct; and references in two places to "Camp Colombia" should read "Camp Columbia." But it would

be picayune carping to stress such points, given the obviously solid worth of the study.

University of California,
Santa Barbara

RUSSELL H. FITZGIBBON

Investigaciones bibliográficas. 2 vols. By PEDRO GRASES. Introduction by AGUSTÍN MILLARES CARLO. Caracas, 1968. Ministerio de Educación. Departamento de Publicaciones. Colección Vigilia. Illustrations. Notes. Index. Pp. 316, 359. Paper.

These two volumes were issued to mark Pedro Grases' thirty years of scholarly activities in Venezuela. Inspired by the efforts of the country's greatest bibliographer, Manuel Segundo Sánchez (1868-1943), Grases has attempted, with no small success, to continue in his footsteps. Trained at the University of Barcelona, Grases came to Venezuela in 1937. From that year to the present, his production has enriched and revitalized Venezuelan historical scholarship, both in quantity and quality. (See pp. 99-120 in Ramón J. Velásquez *et al.*, *La Obra de Pedro Grases* [Caracas, 1967] for a listing of his publications from 1937 to 1967.)

A short prologue by the eminent doyen of Spanish-American bibliographers, Agustín Millares Carlo, recounts Grases' contributions to historical studies in Venezuela. Also, and with obvious justice, Millares Carlo notes the number of major documentary compilations and bibliographical guides which have appeared in Venezuela since 1942, but which (though produced by Grases) do not bear his name.

In the main, the content of the work under consideration has already seen publication in various forms between 1960 and 1966. It consists of twenty-five bibliographical essays and six papers. The principal theme of the collection is Venezuelan historical bibliography, though some of the essays (with a fine critical perception) treat literary aspects of figures like Juan Vicente González (1810-1866), Rafael María Baralt (1810-1860), and Mariano Picón Salas (1901-1965).

The time period covered by these essays and reports is roughly from 1700 to 1960. Quite naturally, given such scope and depth, they are uneven in craftsmanship. All students of Venezuelan history, however, should welcome "La Generación de la Independencia" (I, 25-39), which is an excellent synoptic overview of the economic and institutional changes which took place in Venezuela during the eighteenth century and their impact on the intellectual and patriot political elite. Noteworthy also is "Traducciones de interés político-