

cultural en la época de la Independencia de Venezuela" (I, 41-86), truly a bibliographic tour de force.

Thanks to Grases' studies, "Manuel Landaeta Rosales, 1847-1920" (II, 45-109), and his "Manuel Segundo Sánchez" (II, 111-152), we have working handlists of their major and minor output—no small matter, considering the enormous contribution made by both men to Venezuelan historiography. A good index adds convenience to the work's overall worth. Venezuelan history, bibliography, and literary criticism have been well served, once again, by Pedro Grases.

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*The Venezuelan Golpe de Estado of 1958: The Fall of Marcos Pérez Jiménez.* By PHILIP B. TAYLOR, JR. Washington, 1968. Institute for the Comparative Study of Political Systems. Political Studies Series. Notes. Appendix. Pp. 98. Paper. \$2.00.

In addition to a series of electoral studies and collections of related data, the Institute for the Comparative Study of Political Systems has sponsored monographs describing military *golpes de estado* in contemporary Latin America. Philip B. Taylor's study is the third such publication, and like its predecessors presents a descriptive narrative of an unconstitutional military seizure of power. The author, a political scientist, states in his introduction that "although some attention will be paid to the relevant facts, there also will be an effort to explain in analytical terms the causes of these facts." It would have been more accurate to say that he would provide a brief if detailed overview of Venezuelan politics for the past quarter-century, less than half of which deals directly with the 1958 overthrow of Pérez Jiménez.

The work gives a useful account of major political forces and events in Venezuela. As political science, however, it is but partially successful in analyzing the role of the military. Certainly it has little theoretical importance and is without a meaningful conceptual framework, either explicit or otherwise. The inclination to describe individual trees is strong, and in the process the forest remains rather obscure. Taylor does not offer either new empirical data or fresh insights into the Venezuelan military, which might have given his study greater meaning. The earlier ICOPS study by Martin Needler on the 1963 *golpe* in Ecuador, for instance, provided the kind of information on the inner workings of ranking military decision-makers which contributed to an understanding of politics in Ecuador. Although writing at greater length, Taylor fails to do this for Venezuela.

In short, there is little which is not well known to those familiar with Venezuelan politics. Nor will students of civil-military relations benefit greatly from reading this work. Finally, the author's application of his North American normative values to Venezuela leads him to assessments which are prone to cultural bias. This is most noticeable in his opening chapter on "'Traditional Venezuela' and the 'Democratic Caesar,'" as well as in such statements as: "The Hispanic cultural tradition, like a kind of original sin, was the longer-range target for change" (p. 62). Unhappily the single adjective best describing this monograph must be "disappointing."

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*Regional Development Policy: A Case Study of Venezuela.* By JOHN FRIEDMANN. Cambridge, 1966. M.I.T. Press for Urban Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. Maps. Tables. Notes. Index. Pp. xvi, 279. \$8.50.

In 1960 the Venezuelan government of Rómulo Betancourt created the Corporación Venezolana de Guayana (CVG) to carry forward a project, begun under the recently departed dictatorship, for the construction of a steel mill and a hydroelectric power project in the Guayana region. The CVG, an autonomous agency, contracted with the MIT-Harvard Joint Center for Urban Studies to assist in planning for the comprehensive development of the Guayana region, and particularly the city that would serve as its center. This book, by one of the MIT-Harvard consulting group, is the first academic study to come out of that collaboration. It is an auspicious start, giving hope not only for future publications in academic circles, but also for the success of the Guayana project itself.

Just over half of the book is devoted to an analysis of (and prognosis for) the Guayana project and more generally of Venezuela's rather sophisticated efforts at building a regional development policy. The first several chapters, however, are given over to a theory of regional development planning, rather abstractly stated. Fortunately for the reader, the theory is plainly based on John Friedmann's wide experience in Venezuela, and previously in northeastern Brazil. (He is now directing the Ford Foundation's Program in Urban and Regional Development in Chile.)

Friedmann's theory emphasizes a "systems" approach to regional development planning, an approach designed to help the planner to think small while he is thinking big. Regional planning is a national concern, he says, in which the development of the periphery both de-