

the case of Guatemala, Asturias and particularly *El Señor Presidente*? Are these not illustrative of a revolutionary and questioning spirit?

Cuba is probably the best chapter in the book, because the author is passionately involved in trying to understand Castro and his régime. His writing comes alive, but once again there seems to be little understanding of the historical processes at work, for barely any attention is paid to the revolutionary tradition in Cuba, and Martí is mentioned (p. 203) quite casually and at the end of a sentence. One may wonder how accurate is the assessment of Castro and the revolution, however, because the sources are limited to materials in English. The chapter on Haiti is useless, even though its revolution had profound consequences. The author apparently regards Haiti as a failure because it is not in the "history as progress" stream. Yet might it not need more than a superficial glance if only because of its difference?

*Visión, Hispanic American Report* (not *Reports* as it is so frequently cited in the book), and *Current History* have their usefulness, but too much reliance upon them does not strengthen a book. Readers ought to have been able to go to a work of this sort with the confidence of benefiting from some thirty years of involvement and interest in Latin America. Unfortunately, they will not be able to do so.

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*The Constitutions of Latin America.* Edited by GERALD E. FITZGERALD. Chicago, 1968. Henry Regnery Company. Pp. xiii, 242. \$6.95.

The editor of this small volume chose to include the constitutions of six Latin American countries—Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, and Venezuela—supposedly because they represent major varieties of constitutional systems to be found in the region. Thus he selected Mexico and Venezuela to represent Latin American federalism and Chile and Colombia as

unitary states. Costa Rica and El Salvador were supposed to represent different approaches to Central American integration.

Translations of the texts are those provided by the Pan American Union. Each constitution is preceded by a very brief introduction. Although the editor outlines in his preface some main characteristics of Latin American constitutionalism and also offers historical sketches for each country selected (approximately one and a half pages), his comments are so brief and general that they contribute little or nothing to placing the laws in their cultural and historical context and even less to any systematic analysis of the role and significance of the constitutions in each political system. Hence, the usefulness of this volume is extremely limited.

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*The Process of Rural Development in Latin America.* By T. LYNN SMITH. Gainesville, 1967. University of Florida Press. University of Florida Monographs. Illustrations. Tables. Figures. Notes. Appendix. Pp. 88. Paper. \$2.00.

This collection of six concise papers, all originally published by Latin American journals in Spanish, gives a brief but adequate picture of rural life which is comprehensible to the elementary student and yet provides thought-provoking insights to the expert. The stress is on broad rural problems throughout Latin America, considering both existing conditions and possible future developments. Pertinent examples illustrate the points presented. The author, a well-known sociologist, concludes that many rural peoples are being integrated into metropolitan communities, while others remain in rural or urban communities. "In the more remote and isolated sections of the country the neighborhood may actually continue to be the fundamental locality grouping."

A small but stimulating book!

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