

Or should one not compare it to the ratios of sectors for which there is a potential market?

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El desarrollo agrícola en América Latina. Situación actual y perspectivas. By MONTAGUE YUDELMAN. México, 1967. Centro de Estudios Monetarios Latinoamericanos. Tables. Pp. 188. Paper. \$2.50.

This volume attempts to prove too much by the use of statistics. We learn in Chapter One that on the basis of agricultural production Mexico is in the same category of rapid growth as Venezuela and Nicaragua, whereas in the slow grower class are to be found Haiti and Paraguay, together with Argentina and Chile. The author does at least refer to his classification as somewhat arbitrary.

To be sure, Mexico has made spectacular progress in agriculture by concentrating on the more enterprising farmers in a limited number of regions. The result is that 3% of the farmers produce 50% of the crop sales, mainly on large commercial farms. It is highly significant—but not made clear in this volume—that the rest of the rural population, probably some 50% of the total, remains almost entirely unaffected by this material progress. As for Argentina, Buenos Aires, now generating 70 percent of the nation's capital, is filling up with rural Argentines, instead of with Italians as formerly. These country people have migrated not because they are low-income (or no-income) subsistence agriculturalists lured by city lights, but because they are being thrown out of work as agriculture becomes increasingly mechanized.

In Part II we learn that the Interamerican Development Bank has as its objectives acceleration of agricultural growth generally, aid to low-income farmers especially, and reduction of losses to a minimum. It is pointed out that underemployed, low-income farmers can greatly increase production if given access to land, technical help, an assured market, and credit. But it is not pointed out that loans alone will not do the job. If the farmer is given a loan to increase production and promised a market at a fixed price, only to find the price lowered at harvest time when he must sell, he will have learned his lesson the hard way and will remember it. As we learn in the chapter on exports, imports, and intraregional trade, the Latin American farmer finds it increasingly difficult to save profits for reinvestment in agriculture, since the *volume* of exports has increased at about 4 percent

a year whereas its *value* has increased only 2 per cent on the average. In other words, the larger the crop exported, usually the less profit there is in it for the producer.

The reviewer would like to point out that, to be sure, there are fewer people directly engaged in farming in the U.S. than a century ago. Still, in 1962 25 million of the 65 million people employed in the U.S. produced for and serviced farmers; 9 million processed and distributed farm products; and 250,000 scientists directly served agriculture. Agriculture generated a demand for 15,000 graduates per annum—2,000 on farms and ranches and 13,000 in research, extension, and commercial operations. Thus American agriculture in all its ramifications is a business, a profession, a science, and an industry.

Yudelman concludes that the Latin American governments should show more interest in developing the agricultural sector of their economies, and that one way of doing this is to make agriculture much more attractive than it is at present. Out of 1500 agronomists in Peru, 700 are not engaged in agriculture—that is, they have better paying jobs elsewhere. It is strongly recommended that all Latin American governments should place agriculture in the dominant role, as the most important sector of the economy. Supporting agriculture more than any other part of the economy would be the best way to prove that these governments mean business.

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The Western Hemisphere: Its Influence on United States Policies to the End of World War II. By WILFRID HARDY CALLCOTT. Austin, 1968. University of Texas Press. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xii, 506. \$10.00.

The author of this textbook frankly states his historiographic technique in the preface:

A brief statement about the procedure followed by the author may be in order. Two approaches were possible. The first is known as 'shredding,' the other as 'chopping' the subject. In the first case an effort is made to show how a given policy is applied to each of the various chains of events that transpired. The method has obvious merits but has been discarded in the present study in favor of chopping. The reason is simple: This was the way events actually transpired. The action taken at any one time was likely to be determined by events that formed the context in which the policy was to be applied. A procedure that might have been ideal for Cuban or Argentine relations on a given occasion was occasionally wholly impractical at another date because of events transpiring elsewhere. As a result the narrative becomes a series of 'stills'; it is hoped they will become a moving