

about an important segment of the Chilean economy. It is the only study available on this topic in English.

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La presidencia de Carlos Pellegrini. Política de orden, 1890-1892.

By MIGUEL ÁNGEL CÁRCANO. Buenos Aires, 1968. Editorial Universitaria de Buenos Aires. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 118. Paper.

Although Carlos Pellegrini held the presidency for only a third of the normal six-year term, the crisis which he faced between 1890 and 1892 makes this short period one of the most critical in Argentine history. The revolution of 1890 against the oligarchy was suppressed, but it resulted in the resignation of Miguel Juárez Celman as chief executive. Pellegrini, the vice-president, succeeded to the nation's highest office in the midst of unresolved economic and political problems. Caught between the pressures for change from the disenfranchised and the desire of the ruling class to maintain the status quo, the new government achieved its immediate goal of pacification, allowing the continued material development of the nation.

This brief study relates only to Pellegrini's presidential term. The situation seemed to demand a statesman of unique ability and historic vision. The new leader set out to restore popular confidence by calling a conference of distinguished legislators, who presented the options available to him. Then, exerting strong determination, he resolved complex financial difficulties with the establishment of a national bank. The basic issue, however, remained the political turmoil growing out of the revolution. Pellegrini is pictured as a convinced democrat and advocate of free suffrage who was forced to put aside his convictions and adopt authoritarianism and a "política de orden," so that he might save his country from chaos.

The greatest intrinsic value of this work is historiographical. Miguel Ángel Cárcano, one of the most distinguished authors and diplomats of twentieth-century Latin America, has represented the viewpoint of his generation since the publication in 1917 of his prize-winning study, "Evolución histórica del régimen de la tierra pública." Cárcano deplors the antidemocratic characteristics of the ruling elite, but admires their "pragmatic and realistic" approach to politics, their sensitivity to the needs of Argentina at this time, and their Victorian belief in progress. Pellegrini, with ideas more advanced than those of his contemporaries, could only govern "under pressure

of forces he could not control" (p. 112). If he did all that he could under the circumstances, this may be a compelling reason for Argentines of today to find a renewed interest in him.

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Eliza Lynch. Regent of Paraguay. By HENRY LYON YOUNG. London, 1966. Anthony Blond. Bibliography. Pp. 196. 30s.

Readers who know nothing about Paraguay will find interesting material in this error-studded mixture of fact, fiction, and fancy. From the first paragraph of Chapter One to the last sentence 196 pages later this incredible effort offers an amazing number of mistakes and inventions. We learn on the first page that Cabeza de Vaca "was shipwrecked off the coast of Florida, Argentina, and found wandering naked by the unhirsute Indians who took him to be a God because of his two beards one on his face and the other above his loins." And on page 196, Young has Eliza Lynch being received with all possible honor to her mortal remains: "Guards of honour, salvos, massed bands and speeches preceded her to the tomb, the *Pantéon* [sic] *de los Heroes*, a memorial to Eliza Lynch who, for good or evil, had been all but Queen of Paraguay." The truth is that Eliza's remains have never made it to the Panteón and probably never will.

Among the choice bits scattered through the book are these revelations: Francisco Solano López had "Indian shrewdness," and Urquiza was "a man of mystery." The French colonists at Nuevo Burdeos (now Villa Hayes) were sent "to a corner of the Chaco." Morgenstern was a homosexual. López "proclaimed himself a Field Marshal"; and Madame Lynch "was named Regent of Paraguay." Hopkins "had received without Lopez's knowledge or consent, the monopoly of the yerba trade." López "was on excellent terms with the Rothschilds as well as the famous financiers John and Alfred Blyth." Also "there was untold wealth in the country . . . where gold was merely a bright object and jewels had the value of beans." Young accepts without question the old tales about conspiracy, hidden treasure, and spoliation of the Virgin of Caacupe. He presents Madame Lynch as a prostitute, albeit a discerning and expensive one, who had no difficulty in capturing the vain Paraguayan.

The author's method leaves him open to charges of very close paraphrasing: In R. B. Cunninghame Graham, *Portrait of A Dictator*, one reads: "Lopez was furious. So furious that for three days