

pected of such a large, complex undertaking. By defining the limits of the Southwest geographically and reducing it to the characteristically arid region of popular concept, the author has excluded much that belongs to it historically (such as Monterey, California, and Los Andaes, Texas, both provincial capitals for a time). He wisely ignores his self-imposed boundaries, however, whenever they prove overly confining. His occasional misstatements of factual details may provoke the specialist but not the general reader, for they do not disturb the depth and flow of a worthwhile narrative history.

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The Mexican War: A Compact History, 1846-1848. By CHARLES DUFOUR. New York, 1968. Hawthorne Books. Maps. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 304. \$6.95.

Like other American wars, that with Mexico comes in for its share of retelling. Here as usual the emphasis is placed on military action, and the sources are mostly published documents, memoirs, and older secondary accounts. As an amateur historian Dufour has not attempted any new insights or interpretations. As a professional journalist he has not even told a rousing story, for his style is pedestrian and cluttered with detail.

Dufour has even less to say about the Mexicans than most writers of this genre. It begins to appear that if their side of the story is to be told, they will have to do it themselves. Nineteenth-century Mexicans—Baltontín, Roa Bárcena, Ramón Alcaraz and his collaborators, Olavarria y Ferrari, and others—cleared away some of the underbrush, even though the tragic events were closer and presumably more painful to them than to the present generation. The first Mexican historian to write a modern, balanced, readable account of events in Mexico during the American invasion will have no trouble finding readers on both sides of the border.

D. M. P.

Juárez en La Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística. By MIGUEL CIVEIRA TABOADA. México, 1968. B. Costa-Amic. Notes. Pp. 100. Paper.

According to Miguel Civeira Taboada, his purpose in writing this study was to focus attention on the role of Benito Juárez as a member and supporter of the Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística. Working from hitherto unknown documents discovered in the society's archives, Taboada catalogues the various official actions of Juárez, first as governor of Oaxaca, then as president of Mexico, in which he performed the functions of a chief executive dealing with a semiofficial body. The documents consist of about six or eight official orders of Juárez concerning the society. Perhaps his most significant contribution to its success was his order that the society be reorganized in 1867 after the collapse of the Second Empire and the reestablishment of the Republic.

Such skimpy documentation would hardly merit a study of this length, had not the author also brought in a detailed and copiously documented history of the society during the four decades of Juárez' public life. Of particular interest to students of Mexican politics is the description in the manner in which Generals Mariano Arista and Juan N. Almonte used the society in their attempts to gain political power.

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Causa de Fernando Maximiliano de Hapsburgo y sus Generales Miguel Miramón y Tomás Mejía. México, 1967. Instituto Jalisciense de Antropología e Historia. Pp. 410. Paper.

The trial and execution of Maximilian is one of the notorious events of modern Mexican history. Benito Juárez ordered that he be tried by a military court in accordance with the law of January 25, 1862, designed to punish