

roughly the same numerical proportions of rulers to ruled, but quite distinct differences in the sexual attitudes and behavior of the paternal British element.

As should be obvious, Professor Mason has undertaken a formidable task in analysis. The task is made even more difficult by the attempt to include a great variety of examples of contact societies at various stages of development. The attempt to be all-inclusive does succeed in its objective of indicating the awesome complexity of the problem. Such an emphasis, however, requires a comparable stress on clarity. Too often the method of exposition works against clarification, as evidenced by the tendency to qualify and amend basic propositions before they are fully propounded. In addition, each example of contact—India, the Caribbean, Brazil, and Australasia—is taken largely on its own terms; a systematic application of categories and variables would have helped to relate the case studies more closely to the classification system.

Two chapters are concerned with Latin America, one dealing with Mexico and Peru, the other with Brazil. The Latin Americanist will find the chapters of value for the comparative focus brought to bear on the area; the student of Brazil could well view the development of the country in relation to South Africa. Aside from the importance of a general comparative framework, the specialist will profit from a fresh perspective on Latin America by one who has an extensive knowledge of Africa and the Commonwealth.

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*The Amazon: The Story of a Great River.* By ROBIN FURNEAUX. Foreword by PETER FLEMING. New York, 1969. G. P. Putnam's Sons. Illustrations. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiii, 258. \$6.95.

Robin Furneaux has written a good book for the general public on the history of the Amazon. It contains little that is new, but it is very readable, errors are at a minimum, and judgement is sound. The narration is woven around familiar personalities: Orellana, Ursúa and Aguirre, Father Samuel Fritz and other Jesuits, La Condamine, Humboldt and the naturalists, Theodore Roosevelt, and Colonel Fawcett. Other chapters describe the Amazon and its wildlife, and a section is given to the rubber boom, the Madeira-Mamoré Railway, and the Putumayo atrocities. However, the book is too brief, the region too large, to probe much beyond the highlights, and there is no connecting theme for what are essentially, independent essays.

This and other books on the Amazon covering similar ground

serve to point up the lack of serious and detailed historical research on vast portions of the interior of South America. The rubber boom has never been adequately treated. The Franciscan and Jesuit penetrations, missions impact on native peoples, and political roles have been little studied except for Paraguay. Settlement history and demographic change have been all but ignored. Ethnohistory hardly exists. A wealth of interesting topics await examination, and a few young scholars are now pursuing some of them in the European archives.

In an epilogue, Furneaux considers the future of Amazonia. He rejects the optimism of the past, but notes the great diversity of products taken out of the region today. However, most of the resources, including the better soils and timbers, are widely dispersed rather than concentrated, and he suggests that this spatial factor is critical in inhibiting economic development under present conditions. He is probably right. But distance is less of an obstacle to hungry peasants, and it seems likely that they will nibble away at the tropical forest, as they now are doing in ever increasing numbers, until the entire Amazon ecosystem has been greatly modified for the worse. The destruction of vegetation, soil, and wildlife where the many access roads now penetrate Amazonia suggests that it is becoming less and less true that "The story of the Amazon is one in which Nature is always dominant, and the affairs of mankind pitifully small in so vast a setting."

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*La economía latinoamericana. Una síntesis desde la conquista ibérica hasta la Revolución Cubana.* By CELSO FURTADO. Santiago, 1969. Editorial Universitaria. Estudios Internacionales. Tables. Notes. Index. Pp. 311. Paper. \$3.00.

Celso Furtado, a well-known expatriate Brazilian economist has given us this book on the Latin American economy. It is a useful work, reflecting, naturally enough, the author's personal judgment respecting the relevance of materials pertinent to the title. That is to say, it is truly a synthesis rather than a set of data, and ideas flow compellingly from basic premises. In the exercise of his prerogative of selection, the author departs from the degree of balanced coverage implied by the title. Moreover, Editorial Universitaria creates a misleading idea of the book's contents by dropping the subtitle as such and making the cover title *La economía latinoamericana desde la conquista ibérica hasta la Revolución Cubana*. Both versions of the title suggest an economic history covering about five centuries. How-