

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-

ever, only a small portion of the volume relates to the period prior to the present century and most of it relates to the last twenty-five years.

In reality, the book is more akin to the modified economic "histories" which deal with economic development. It presents the author's interpretation of secondary data for the recent development of the Latin American economies, striving at the same time to discern common elements within the Latin American sphere leading to meaningful generalization.

In mentioning the Cuban Revolution in its title, the author trades somewhat upon this dramatic event. The primary justification for using it in the title is a single "literary" chapter. The author's statistical tables and analysis do not end with the Revolution. Moreover, in historical terms, he does not really equate it with the Iberian Conquest.

The most useful aspect of the book is the interpretation of recent economic development reflected in the selected arrangement of secondary materials from the viewpoint of a well known Brazilian economist influential in North and Latin American intellectual circles. While numerous cross-sectional and short term series are presented, there are no long term statistical series, nor is there a single graph. Analytical statistical tests and empirical verifications such as correlation coefficients and quantitative techniques of the "new" economic history are also absent.

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#### COLONIAL AND INDEPENDENCE PERIODS

*La découverte de l'Amérique.* By MARIANNE MAHN-LOT. Paris, 1970. Librairie Ernest Flammarion. Questions d'histoire. Collection dirigée par Marc Ferro. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 142. Paper.

*La découverte de l'Amérique* is the most recent volume in the French series published by Flammarion. The collection deals with historical, political, social, and economic subjects in the main, but also touches on anthropology and the fine arts. To date 18 volumes have appeared and 91 additional titles are in preparation. Of the former group, only the volume under review pertains to Latin America; of the latter, at least three books will possibly interest Latin Americanists when they are published.

*La découverte de l'Amérique* is a small book. The 98 pages of text are supplemented by a chronology of discovery (from 874-1550 A.D.),