

he aspires only to place in historical perspective an integral stage of Uruguay's development. He confesses that his contributors represent mainly the views of the dominant classes and the defense of existing institutions, but reminds us that some of them support the "establishment" only with reservations. He concedes the heterogeneity of his testimonial gleanings (reflexions, opinions, fragmentary impressions), but sees them bonded by their emphasis on common problem areas. He has not planned his book for specialists, though many will find his theme stimulating and his evidence useful.

The format of the volume is not unlike that of Alfred A. Knopf's Borzoi series. In a scholarly fifty-page introduction, the author delineates what he regards as Uruguay's principal "structural elements" in the late nineteenth century—demographic trends, monoproduction, foreign commerce, banking and credit, and transportation. He concludes each of these sub-sections with a helpful "*recapitulación*." He carefully sketches the qualifications and orientation of each contributor and faithfully identifies the source and date of each selection.

Among a number of eye-catching items in this little volume, two are particularly revealing. As early as 1876, an Uruguayan legislator-diplomat argued his nation's need to create a solid middle class that would unify its disparate popular elements. In quite different vein, a French diplomat in 1886 reported to his government the grave threat posed by United States' designs to establish hegemony over Uruguay and the River Plate area.

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Uruguay, país en crisis. By ABRAHAM GUILLÉN ARAPEY. Montevideo, n.d. Nativa Libros. Illustration. Tables. Pp. 244. Paper. \$2.45 (U.S.).

Cinco perspectivas históricas del Uruguay moderno. By OSCAR MOURAT *et al.* Montevideo, 1969. Fundación de Cultura Universitaria. Tables. Charts. Figures. Pp. 202.

Fifty-four newspaper articles (the most recent appeared in 1965) analyzing Uruguay's major economic problems comprise *País en crisis*. These reflect declining productivity, rampant inflation, and the too-numerous unproductive citizens—including public employees (one to every 13 inhabitants, in contrast to one to 59 in The Netherlands or one to 125 in Belgium), plus an excess of pensioners and unemployed—who burden the economy.

Arapey castigates the government for perpetuating defunct eco-

conomic policies, such as currency devaluation, that fail to control inflation, depress living standards, and impede economic development. The system stands indicted for capital outflow, imbalance of payments, mounting foreign indebtedness, and constant dollar attacks on the peso. The administration allegedly collaborates with greedy capitalist-imperialists who fatten themselves on smaller nations' weak economies. He claims that the country's effective rate of earnings in international trade was lower in 1964 than in 1929.

Contemporary problems have been illustrated with historical parallels. For example, Arapey compares contemporary Uruguay with France on the eve of revolution, and says the country labors under an archaic latifundia system like that which weakened Rome. In that connection, backward-looking, landowning oligarchs allegedly dictate economic policies to a nation that is 84% urban.

The crisis demands sweeping fundamental reforms to curb the inflation and unemployment that will inevitably provoke violent revolution. Uruguay should identify with the "Third World" by shaking off the grip of semi-feudal economic structures. It must liberate itself from the insidious dollar neo-colonialism which he considers to be more repressive than the traditional imperialism under the flag.

He postulates that to live Uruguay must export, and that an economy not supported by reinvestment will die. Similarly, failure to institute imaginative long-range development plans will plunge the nation even deeper into economic abyss. To him, it is inexcusable that poor planning has changed Uruguay from an exporter to an importer of wheat.

His pessimism notwithstanding, Arapey foresees some hope for progress. Uruguay enjoys many advantages when compared to other (and more prosperous) nations of similar size, such as Belgium, The Netherlands, Denmark, and New Zealand. The population growth rate is not excessive, and the available productive land will support a prosperous agrarian-pastoral economy. The country probably can not develop heavy industries, but it could compete more effectively in the world agricultural market. Underdevelopment, mismanagement and failure to integrate all sectors of the economy—rather than any inherent deficiencies—have caused the present debacle.

País en crisis reads jerkily because the essays have been presented seriatim with no connective passages. Regrettably, the author's strongly-held views emerge in a monotonous series of polemics that repeat previous conclusions.

In *Cinco perspectivas* five students in advanced history classes at the national university in Montevideo have published findings from

researches into significant aspects of Uruguay's socio-economic development since the mid-nineteenth century. Oscar Mourat's "La Inmigración y el crecimiento de la población del Uruguay 1830-1930," briefly details the process of European immigration, and Alba A. Mariani's "Los comienzos del proceso de mestización ganadera" sketches the introduction of livestock breeding. Extensive statistical compilations support both essays. "Las Consecuencias sociales del alambramiento entre 1872 y 1880," by Raul Jacob describes wire fencing's impact on Uruguayan society. "Aspectos de la evolución urbana de Montevideo: edificación y vivienda (1895-1914)," by Adela Pellegrino and Rosanna di Segni is a short and interesting account of dwelling construction in the capital city. Silvia Rodríguez Villamil reviews some highlights of industrial investment as depicted in various Uruguayan publications, notably *La Liga Industrial*, in "Un antecedente de espíritu de empresa: el industrialismo." Professor Juan Antonio Oddone, a leading Uruguayan social historian, has written a useful introduction.

These essays suffer from the usual shortcomings of graduate student papers: tedious prose; overuse of direct quotations; voluminous listings of uninterpreted statistics, etc. Nevertheless, these seminal studies of important topics in Uruguay's social and economic history will be useful to scholars undertaking further explorations.

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The Abolition of the Brazilian Slave Trade. Britain, Brazil and the Slave Trade Question, 1807-1869. By LESLIE BETHELL. New York, 1970. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge Latin American Studies, 6. Maps. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvi, 425. \$13.50.

Leslie Bethell has written a valuable account of Britain's struggle to eliminate the slave trade to Brazil during the first half of the nineteenth century. Using Foreign Office records as his major source, he has attempted to answer three basic questions: why was the Brazilian slave trade declared illegal; why was it not actually suppressed for twenty years after it became illegal; and how was it at last abolished? In answering these questions, the author provides abundant evidence that Brazilians (as well as the Portuguese before and after Brazilian independence) were greatly at odds with the British on the question of slavery. Britain, with motives which the author does not particularly seek to reveal, was dedicated to suppression of the Atlantic slave trade, while Brazil was strongly but unofficially committed to its con-