

The scope of the essays is exciting. They cover alcoholism, games, peasant modes of thought, and concepts of love emanating from studies undertaken with Erich Fromm in a Mexican village. These essays show the use of psychoanalytic theory and psychological instrumentation in interpreting individual personality, and the anthropological perspective in describing national character. The essays on cognitive style expand the cognitive developmental literature, utilizing cross-national and rural-urban comparisons. The perspectives on teaching and religion illustrate a blend of classical psychoanalytic theory and radical, or modern, sociological thought à la Ivan Illich.

The author, Michael Maccoby, presents to us in this book a tour de force of multidisciplinary study and theorizing in social science.

G.J.M.

*La violencia en Guatemala como fenómeno político.* By GABRIEL EDGARDO AGUILERA PERALTA. Presentation by CARLOS LÓPEZ. Cuernavaca, México, 1971. Centro Intercultural de Documentación Cuaderno, 61. Tables. Bibliography. Pp. 169. Paper.

This is a conscientiously balanced relation of the principal guerrilla and terrorist groups operating in Guatemala from 1960 to 1970. It utilizes some definitions suggested by various authors, comparing the status of Guatemala with that of various nations as to conditions of violence, terror, and revolution. It is admittedly non-sociological, and concerns itself almost entirely with the identification of, brief histories of, and ideologies of the groups in question. It ought to be of use to anyone concerned with finding some order in the events of this decade, and also provides an extensive bibliography of documents and books on the subject. The study itself seldom goes beyond its documentary material.

There are no conclusions of significance beyond those which would occur to most fairly impartial observers,—i.e., that there is a real revolution in process, that it is not currently going very well for the revolutionaries, but neither is there any indication that a successful end is in sight for either set of protagonists. It is a useful tool for the history of contemporary Guatemala, but it offers no new interpretive material, nor extensive new details on any of the groups discussed.

R.N.A.

*Asang: Adaptations to Culture Contact in a Miskito Community.* By MARY W. HELMS. Gainesville, Florida, 1971. University of Florida Press. Map. Graph. Tables. Illustrations. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. viii, 268. Cloth. \$10.00.

Students of Central American populations will welcome this, the first modern social anthropological study of a Miskito population. It combines some historical materials with a good account of the current social organization and cultural life of a single Miskito Community. The coverage is fairly standard, and is particularly valuable on matters pertaining to the changing relations of the Miskito with other population segments.

The Miskito are not a clear-cut cultural derivative of any currently identifiable indigenous social unit. While their language is clearly of indigenous origin, the particular nature of their social organization and mode of adaptation has been

such as to constantly introduce new cultural content. They have survived as a distinctive social grouping because the continuity lies in the passing on of culture by mothers to children. Miskito women have married outside men for generations, and as such, have taken over many new traits. These traits are recombined within the Miskito household and passed on as a part of the "correct" traditions. Thus, over the centuries, the Miskito have seen the incursions of many kinds of Europeans, interested in various phases of Miskitia, and in some sense, each has probably effected some change in Miskito life and custom. Their isolation from Spanish Nicaragua and Honduras, however, has allowed the Miskito to successfully readapt to each succeeding pressure and survive as a distinctive cultural component.

The volume poses a number of interesting cultural questions; historians will find it goes far in filling a void in the Central American historico-cultural landscape.

R.N.A.

*A Guide to Hayti.* Edited by JAMES REDPATH. Westport, Connecticut, 1970 (1861). Negro Universities Press. Map. Tables. Index. Pp. 180. Cloth. \$8.75.

Originally published as a guidebook to encourage the emigration of Blacks from the United States to Haiti, this book is primarily concerned with describing the economic opportunities found in Haiti. Strongly polemical in parts due to the abolitionist fervor of the editor, it gives a wide though biased overview of economic conditions in Haiti. Its polemical slant and the lack of adequate information on the social and political conditions in Haiti at the time covered, immediately after the landmark regime of Faustin Soulouque, seem to make it of little use as a source of historical data.

D.K.B.

*Ché Guevara.* By ANDREW SINCLAIR. New York, 1970. Viking Press. Modern Masters. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 115. Cloth. \$4.95. Paper. \$1.65.

This addition to Viking Press' "Modern Masters" series is an excellent readable introduction to the life and thought of Ché Guevara.

In chronological fashion those major elements in the life of the Heroic Guerilla which have helped shape the worldwide cult of Ché are briefly covered. Sinclair is sympathetic in his presentation of both Ché the man and Ché the theoretician. Although he notes the standard criticisms of Ché's shortcomings, he places those issues in a broader context which underlines his accomplishments and interprets his "failures." His final assessment of Ché's influence is quasi-Messianic: "Because he fought for the poor, and because he chose to be sacrificed in his prime, he gives a mystical feeling that he dies for us, for all humanity" (p. 105).

This brief book invites the casual reader to undertake more in-depth exploration—and a good summary bibliography at the end gives concrete assistance. Although \$4.95 is a lot to pay for a 115-page book, the paper version at \$1.65 should find a large market. This book is useful for interpretive and "consciousness-raising" purposes among several sectors, including both radical first year undergraduates and their middle-of-the-road parents.

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