

Seven Interpretive Essays on Peruvian Reality. By JOSÉ CARLOS MARIÁTEGUI. Translated by MARJORY URQUIDI. Introduction by JORGE BASADRE. Austin and London, 1971. University of Texas Press. Glossary. Index. Pp. xxxvi, 301. Cloth. \$8.50.

José Mariátegui emerged during the ferment in Peru during the 1920s as the main spokesman for the idea that Peru needed to create a type of socialism that was based on the indigenous institutions preserved through the centuries since the conquest. Peru, he wrote, suffers from "a dualism of race, language and sentiment, born of the invasion and conquest of indigenous Peru by a foreign race that has not managed to merge with the Indian race, or eliminate it, or absorb it."

The essays in this book are all variations on this theme, an attempt to answer the question of how Peru could unite its two disparate human groups, its two cultures, its two ways of life. The ideas expressed in these essays written in the 1920s have been continuously debated in the decades since they were first published, and Peru's history since then has been a struggle between those who favored efforts to unify the population by revolutionary change and those who have succeeded in preserving the traditional organization of the country.

In this struggle, the name of Mariátegui has been a "banner" as both the Communists and the Apristas claimed to be the true interpreters of his ideas. Since Mariátegui died in 1930 before either of the two parties got organized, no one really can say with which of the two groups he would have associated himself, but his ideas were closer to those of the Apristas than to those of the Communists. Yet he called himself a Marxist and saw economics as the basic force within society.

For the scholar this is an essential book to understand Peru's intellectual history.

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Balmaceda. By RAÚL SILVA CASTRO. Santiago de Chile, 1969. Editorial Nascimento. Pp. 100. Paper.

Raúl Silva Castro, Director of the Chilean Academy, poet, literary critic, long-time editorial writer for *El Mercurio* of Santiago, and visiting professor at several universities in the United States, has written an interesting little book about the career of José Manuel Balmaceda Fernández, president of Chile from 1886 until the end of the ill-fated civil war of 1891.

This war, its causes, and disastrous consequences, have been subjects of great interest ever since. Admirers of Balmaceda have maintained that the war was brought on by the men of a conservative and unenlightened congress, perhaps in league with foreign interest, concerned with their own selfish ambitions, while the president was a true liberal who cared about the fate of the masses and the future of responsible democratic government in Chile.

Not so, says the author. The congressional opposition was just as patriotic as the president and did not support foreign interests in Chile. In fact, the president brought on most of the trouble himself and acted like a man who had completely taken leave of his senses during the crisis.

The account is well written throughout and will be of value to anyone interested in this period of Chilean history. The only criticism is the absence of footnotes and bibliography which would have made the work more useful to the researcher.

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CARL A. ROSS

El pensamiento internacional de Alberdi. By ISIDORO RUIZ MORENO. Buenos Aires, 1969. Editorial Universitaria de Buenos Aires. América/Temas. Pp. 155. Paper.

In this reprint of a work which appeared in 1945, the author seeks to show Alberdi as an innovator in the philosophy of international diplomacy, especially in terms of inter-American cooperation. Influenced by the perspectives inherent in an immediate post-war period, Isidoro Ruiz Moreno analyses the Argentine thinker's concepts of international rights, including a distinct inter-American relationship; war; neutrality; and the concept of the "world state."

Both Alberdi's philosophy of international rights and his influence on its history are described in brief fashion, using ample quotations from his writings. Although the author devotes most of the work to Alberdi's philosophy, history students will find sketches of his role in the drawing up of the treaties between Argentina and Spain in the latter half of the 1850s. Special attention is given to the controversial 1857 treaty for which Alberdi was widely criticized. One chapter discusses Alberdi's thoughts on convening a congress of American republics to coordinate jurisprudence, commerce, territorial boundaries, legislation, and cultural questions.

This monograph is a description of Alberdi's views and would be superfluous for the student seeking an interpretative analysis of his writings.

M.S.

Bibliografía de bibliografías argentinas, 1807-1970. By ABEL RODOLFO GEOGHEGAN. Buenos Aires, 1970. Casa Pardo. Pp. 128. Paper.

This small book is important both for its contents and for what it represents, since national bibliographies of bibliographies are scarce in Latin America. This is, the compiler notes, the first bibliography of Argentine bibliographies to appear in 50 years. Its sole predecessor was a listing of 164 bibliographies and catalogs published in the *Revista de la Universidad de Buenos Aires* in 1919. The present work lists 452 bibliographies covering the national period. The author indicates that it is a selective list from a total of over a thousand titles which he has assembled and which are to be included in the definitive list he hopes to publish later. However, some of the future inclusions appear to be of minimal significance, and full use should be made of the present bibliography rather than awaiting a more extensive one.

The arrangement is that of the decimal system (Dewey or Universal), ranging from general works in the 000s to geography, biography, and history in the 900s with entries alphabetical by author within each classification. There is no author index. Perhaps the most valuable single section is that covering personal bib-