

Argentina, 1967 (1925). Editorial Francisco de Aguirre. Colección Guerra del Pacífico, 1. Table. Index. Pp. 263. Paper.

These three volumes form part of a series of reprints on the War of the Pacific (1879-1884) in which Chile took up arms to protect the investments of its citizens in the nitrate deposits then under Bolivian and Peruvian jurisdiction. The daring deeds of the men of '79 are recounted in these books by contemporaries and convey something of the atmosphere of the times: the intense patriotism of boys who pleaded to be allowed to enlist; the primitive means of transport and supply; the long marches across the desert with inadequate food and water. The contrast with today's advanced technology and diminished martial spirit is striking.

El Combate homérico refers of course to the naval battles off Iquique on May 21, 1879 which gave Chile one of her greatest heroes, Arturo Prat. The author was a journalist who was not an eyewitness of the events described. The story was first published only a year after the battle and is more notable for fervid patriotism than scholarly objectivity. However, the book also contains a few documents bearing on the battle, including the official reports of the commanders of the four vessels involved and an eyewitness account which appeared in the Iquique press the following day.

Alberto del Solar's *Diario de Campaña*, first published in 1886 and only slightly revised, he says, in 1910, is based on a diary in which he recorded his impressions and experiences during his military service beginning at age 20. He does not pretend to analyse the strategy of the campaign or the tactics of the battles; his role was to keep his men in line and moving forward: the battle of Tacna cost his unit one-third of its effectives.

Although he had Peruvian cousins, Arturo Benavides Santos was as patriotic a Chilean as any. As he was only 15, he had to go on strike at school to persuade his father to wangle an enlistment for him. He became the pet of his company—a sort of mascot—and many of his fondest recollections were of the special favors and kindnesses shown him by officers and soldiers alike. His account is warmer and more personal than del Solar's, although it was not written until 1925, 40 years after the events described. Unlike del Solar, who resigned his commission shortly after the capture of Lima, Benavides went through the subsequent campaigns in the mountains, culminating with the capture of Arequipa and Puno in 1883. Then, to his great regret, the seasoned veteran of six years of war, aged 21, had to go back to school!

These books add nothing to our knowledge of events but do provide interesting local color.

Gettysburg University

WILLIAM L. KRIEG

Bolivia: A Profile. By WILLIAM CARTER. New York and London, 1971. Praeger Publishers. Praeger Country Profile Series. Maps. Illustrations. Index. Pp. xv, 176. Cloth. \$8.00.

This book is part of a Praeger series of introductions to the countries of the world. As such, it is geared to the general reader who has no knowledge of Bolivia. Viewed in that light, it is an excellent little book that performs its function well; it gives a general overview and should whet appetites to dig deeper into the literature of Bolivia. The book deals with geography, demography, recent and past history, culture and politics. Its author is one of the most knowledgeable North

Americans on many aspects of Bolivia and he has combined book knowledge with extensive personal experience to produce a tight and provocative essay. The work has the added attraction of being written very well in a style that convincingly gives the reader a taste of the flavor and color of Bolivian culture. In my view, the author does a better job when dealing with geography, past history and culture than he does with recent politics. With regard to the latter, he tends to be judgmental and argumentative. These qualities are not objectionable in themselves, but a book of this nature does not provide the opportunity to present the detailed evidence and analysis necessary to support many views which are to say the least debatable.

University of Pittsburgh

JAMES M. MALLOY

Fidel in Chile: A Symbolic meeting Between Two Historical Processes. Selected Speeches of Major Fidel Castro During His Visit to Chile, November 1971. By FIDEL CASTRO. New York, 1972. International Publishers. Pp. 234. Cloth. \$7.50; Paper. \$2.65.

On November 10, 1971, two countries of Latin America entered into dialogue. The arrival of Fidel Castro to Chile was acclaimed in many parts as the encounter of "two historical processes." This book documents that encounter. The editors have selected and translated a variety of speeches made by Fidel during his three week tour of Chile. The audiences range from miners in Chuquicamata, Lota, and Rancagua to women in Santiago, from port workers in Iquique to farmers in Río Verde, and from students in Concepción to technical experts of the Economic Commission for Latin America in Santiago. The diversity of audience, however, does not preclude thematic unity. Throughout there is an emphasis on the "heroism of work," the unity of language, culture, and economic needs across six thousand miles of Latin America, and imperialist domination as the enemy. Examples from the Cuban experience abound, although the theme of the uniqueness of revolutionary experiences is noted repeatedly. Like a press conference, however, these speeches present a maximum of communication in the simple and unpretentious style of Fidel, with the transmission of a minimum of substantive information.

R. M.

Argentina: A City and a Nation. By JAMES R. SCOBIE. 2d ed. New York, 1971. Oxford University Press. Maps. Tables. Graphs. Index. Pp. 323. Cloth. \$7.50.

The second edition of this valuable book benefits from additions and updating of the text and of the tables and bibliography. The new material carries the author's political and economic analysis of Argentina through March 1971.

Nonetheless, the strength of Professor Scobie's book continues to lie in its treatment of the colonial and the national periods, down to 1940. Here it is without equal in its superb mix of economic and social history within a skillfully organized but subordinated political framework.

One hopes that Professor Scobie's optimism for Argentina's future will be justified. The last sentence of the text of the first edition (1964) reads: "Despite the chaos, bitterness and apathy that threaten Argentina in the 1960s, these people