BOOK NOTICES

Initialed notices were written by members of the editorial staff.


This book is an updated version of a lifetime preoccupation with the “Bio-Bibliography” of colonial Hispanic American history by A. Curtis Wilgus. Scholars in the field have consulted with profit his earlier *History and Historians of Latin America* published as three articles in 1936, in a separate edition in 1942, and reprinted in 1965. We are now given additional categories: life charts of authors for the three centuries, 1600–1800, and an updated bibliography. Recent editions of the works include those from Portuguese, Spanish, and Latin American presses, while French, German, and Italian editions and their respective introductory information will have to be checked out by the user. Reservations over the emphasis and some detail in the summary presentation of books and authors are unavoidable, but in the context of the overall presentation, Professor Wilgus achieves a remarkable balance. This book is an indispensable *aide mémoire*, a unique and very handy guide.

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Foreign aid programs, both national and multilateral, have been severely criticized by both donor and recipient nations for a variety of sins. Among them, donor nation aid, particularly in the form of funding the foreign exchange component of development projects, is accused of promoting inefficient utilization of recipient nations’ resources and of operating as a front for donor export promotion. This short study of the subject advances the argument that the basic problems of foreign economic aid do not, in fact, come from its being linked to a single donor nation nor its administration by selfish and callous “ugly American” technicians. Instead, the “organizational environment,” asserts Tendler, plays the central role in shaping the nature of all assistance programs, national or multilateral.

Although many of the author’s major points are buried in jargon and ponderous sentences, it does shed light on a range of problems inherent in the whole concept of economic aid. Simply “denationalizing” aid programs will not automatically render them more efficient or productive. Economists must reexamine the methods of financing, the object of development and techniques to utilize more efficiently both capital and industrial capacity in recipient nations. Latin Americanists may be particularly interested in the case study of how an inflexible American aid policy interfered with the development of a Brazilian electric power project.

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