

*El gobierno del Puerto: 1862–1868.* By TRINIDAD DELIA CHIANELLI. Buenos Aires, 1975. Ediciones La Bastilla. Chronology. Bibliography. Pp. 311. Paper.

*La magra cosecha: 1868–1874.* By JUAN CARLOS VEDOYA. Buenos Aires, 1975. Ediciones La Bastilla. Chronology. Bibliography. Pp. 295. Paper.

The revisionist syntheses of the presidencies of Bartolomé Mitre by Chianelli and of Domingo F. Sarmiento by Vedoya are two of a projected twenty-seven volumes in a popular series edited by Félix Luna that covers Argentine history since 1808. Both develop many revisionist themes, especially the *porteño* elite's subjugation of the interior provinces and the ubiquitous influence of the British that together created Argentine economic dependency. Vedoya's appraisal exemplifies their attitude toward the liberal elite in general: "Sarmiento fue un sembrador que distribuyó mal las semillas, y no obtuvo cosecha" (p. 115).

While united in a common criticism of liberal policies, the authors diverge widely in their emphases. Chianelli devotes over half of the book to foreign and military affairs (one-third to the Paraguayan War) but pays scant attention to economic and social issues. In contrast, Vedoya examines public finance in detail and criticizes educational, transportation, and immigration policies, but largely ignores political, diplomatic, and military questions.

The most serious limitation of these studies lies not in the scholarship or interpretation but rather in the nature of the series itself. Periodization by presidential administration is unsuited to the analysis of most important themes and processes (a problem recognized by Vedoya, p. 210). Thus Chianelli's extended treatment of the Paraguayan War stops abruptly when Mitre leaves office in October 1868, over two years before the end of hostilities. Vedoya scarcely mentions the war in the succeeding volume.

Both authors write in a clear, uncomplicated style which is inviting to the general reader. Unfortunately, no clear picture of the two presidents or of their administrations emerges because of the selective, fragmented focus of the interpretations. The specialist, unless expressly interested in revisionist arguments, will be disappointed by the heavy reliance upon secondary sources and by the meager citations that omit page numbers. In any case, the reader will doubtless wish to weigh the presentations against liberal interpretations by Ricardo Levene, Roberto Levillier, José C. Campobassi, and others of the Academia Nacional de la Historia.

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*Defensa y pérdida de nuestra independencia económica.* By JOSÉ MARÍA ROSA. Buenos Aires, 1975. A. Peña Lillo Editor S.R.L. Tables. Appendix. Pp. 161. Paper.

First published in 1938, and frequently reissued, this is an excellent example of Argentine revisionist historiography of the era 1776–1852. It is a study in right wing dependency theory which argues that the liberals sold Argentina out when they overthrew Juan Manuel de Rosas, opted for Free Trade and the *de facto* colonial status in which, Rosa contends, Argentina has remained an all too willing partner. Rosa assumes that Argentina's crafts would have prospered

with protection where they declined under Free Trade. But this is not an example of counter-factual history. No significant arguments are presented and Rosa is content to lambast the Liberals and extol Rosas. Miron Burgin's book on the same period is infinitely superior. Burgin, however, is mentioned only once in this revised edition.

The author's critique of the liberal's deformation of *criollo* culture is telling. Unfortunately, it is rooted in national character and seems mired in the nineteenth century. Today, such arguments are merely tiresome. The study is most important as an example—polemical, angry, and occasionally witty—of a particular historiographical school. What Rosa does not realize is that Rosas abandoned, rather than defended, the classes most desirous of change. That the liberals also abandoned them excuses neither.

New York City

EUGENE F. SOFER

*Una historia fantástica y calculada: La CIA en el país de los chilenos.* By GERMÁN MARÍN. México, 1976. Siglo XXI Editores. Appendices. Pp. 280. Paper.

Germán Marín, a Chilean exile, says his purpose is neither a history of Chile or of the CIA, but only of the area in which the two intertwine. He has kept strictly to this objective, listing by year, by month and usually by day from 1947 (the year the CIA was created) to September 11, 1975, the CIA activities that had or were calculated to have an impact on the affairs of Chile.

Most of what he reports is already known; much of it verified by United States Congressional investigations or by the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and other equally reputable publications. What is valuable is the cumulative effect or arranging chronologically and correlating a host of data, none of which taken separately constitutes decisive evidence.

Also important for the specialist is the identification of a vast number of individuals, Chileans, North Americans, and others, with indications of their interrelations and the roles they played. One is left with a sense of a more objective overview than that provided in recent exposés by ex-CIA agents.

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GARY MACEOIN

*Evolución político-constitucional de Costa Rica: Síntesis histórica.* By OSCAR AGUILAR BULGARELLI. San José, 1976. Librería Lehmann. Bibliography. Pp. 126. Paper.

Costa Rica's reputation for the zealous protection of human rights has led to the frequent examination of the constitutional history of that state. Carlos Melendez Ch., Hernán Peralta, and Marco Tulio Zeledón are among the outstanding scholars who have produced significant studies designed to explain this phenomenon. Now Oscar Aguilar Bulgarelli has added a small but meaningful synthesis to our stockpile.

Professor Aguilar follows the pattern of his predecessors by analyzing the documents which 150 years of self-government have produced, but his own