

nurtured the principle of constitutional government by obeying the national charter of 1818.

The director's respect for the independence of the judiciary, his recognition of the senate's taxation powers, and his voluntary practice of consulting the legislature concerning ministerial changes are several of the many examples cited by Heise to buttress his thesis. He maintains that O'Higgins' unfounded reputation as a dictator is based on the biased assertions of contemporaries opposed to his democratic reforms, such as the abolition of entailed estates and titles of nobility. The author also blames Chile's nineteenth-century historians for perpetuating this distortion, because these doctrinaire liberals condemned O'Higgins' strong leadership without recognizing the truly constitutional nature of his directorship.

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El imperio informal británico en el Uruguay en el siglo XIX. By PETER WINN. Translated by JOSÉ DE TORRES WILSON. Montevideo, 1975. Ediciones de la Banda Oriental. Notes. Pp. 84. Paper.

This is the Spanish translation of "British Informal Empire in Uruguay in the Nineteenth Century," which appears as an article in the November 1976 issue of *Past and Present*. Winn concludes that the concept of British informal empire developed by John Gallagher and Ronald Robinson applies to Uruguay. At first, Winn argues, England used diplomatic and armed intervention. In the heyday of informal empire, from 1864 to the turn of the century, investment sufficed. The result was profit for England and dependent development for Uruguay.

Just how informal empire differs from economic imperialism or predominance is not made clear. There is no comparison with overt empire—Australia and New Zealand have economies similar to Uruguay's—to see whether colonies provided England with additional advantages. Winn, who used archival sources, especially diplomatic, for the British side relies principally on secondary sources for the Uruguayan side and uncritically accepts some very questionable interpretations offered in these books, such as the late nineteenth-century emergence of an anti-British elite generation descended from the economically dispossessed old creole elite. In short, this study can be considered a prospectus for Winn's promised history of Anglo-Uruguayan economic and political relations from 1830 to 1930.

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MILTON I. VANGER

Vida de Arturo Prat. By RODRIGO FUENZALIDA B. 2d ed. rev. Santiago, 1976. Editorial Andrés Bello. Map. Illustrations. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 280. Paper.

Rodrigo Fuenzalida's second edition is an abbreviated version of an early biography. Arturo Prat, a naval officer who lost his life in the War of the Pacific, has evolved into one of Chile's preeminent heroes. Although he lost the battle of Iquique, as well as his ship, he nonetheless represented a standard of personal and professional excellence which made him a natural object for public admiration. The values he epitomized, particularly self-sacrifice, outlasted his wartime popularity, making him a civilian as well as military hero.

This study includes material gleaned from the Archivo Nacional de Chile as well as from private papers belonging to the Prat family. Historians will be particularly interested by some of the letters describing Argentina during the diplomatic crisis of the late 1870s. The various photographs also enhance the quality of this work.

Fuenzalida's scholarship is strongest when describing Prat's early life. The section on the War of the Pacific is unimaginative, glossing over the rather important differences which divided Prat and Admiral Williams. Still, this study is superior to anything published recently. Scholars could more profitably, however, consult the unabridged version which surpasses the earlier works of Rosales and Vicuña Mackenna.

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WILLIAM SATER

The Age of Porfirio Díaz: Selected Readings. Edited by CARLOS B. GIL. Albuquerque, 1977. University of New Mexico Press. Table. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 191. Paper. \$4.95.

In this anthology, Professor Gil has selected twenty-seven excerpts from contemporary travelers' accounts and histories, journal articles, philosophical treatises, and monographs which describe attitudes and conditions during the Díaz regime in Mexico. There is also a brief introduction by Gil and a bibliographical essay by Anthony Bryan. The underlying theme of the book is that the Díaz era set the stage for Mexico's modern economic and political development. Unfortunately, the book suffers from the uneven quality of its selections. The last and longest section, "Society," provides an excellent description of social and economic life. But the first four sections are weak. Some of the excerpts are too brief to convey the points intended. The editor has chosen to use ten percent of the text to deal with the *rurales*, while short-changing other more important subjects, such as the decline of the peso, the export economy, and foreign policy. Inordinate space is devoted to descriptions of army and police uniforms. Professor Bryan's concluding piece is outdated. In summary, this book is of little help to specialists, although it may be of value in an undergraduate survey.

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MARK WASSERMAN

Lázaro Cárdenas: Su pensamiento económico, social y político. By JESÚS SILVA HERZOG. México, 1975. Editorial Nuestro Tiempo. Pp. 137. Paper.

The central point of the political, social, and economic thought of Lázaro Cárdenas, apparently the cornerstone of his public life from the beginning of his diary in 1913 to the last entries of 1970, is summed up as follows: "The fundamental force which blocks the development of Latin America is North American imperialism" (quoted from the book's outside back cover). Cárdenas' concern for agricultural and industrial workers everywhere is illustrated here and in his policies. Jesús Silva Herzog, prominent Mexican political economist and member of the team of advisors to the Cárdenas presidency (1934-1940), is eminently qualified to discuss the social philosophy of this brilliant statesman who led Mexico to the culmination of her twentieth-century social revolution, serving as inspiration to