

BOOK NOTICES

Initialed notices were written by members of the editorial staff.

La victoria de Carranza. By ISIDRO FABELA. Edited by COMISIÓN DE INVESTIGACIONES HISTÓRICAS DE LA REVOLUCIÓN MEXICANA. México, 1978. Editorial Jus. Notes. Pp. 327. Paper.

The late Isidro Fabela, Minister of Foreign Relations under Venustiano Carranza, herein avers that his First Chief not only conceived, led, and effected "the Social Revolution of 1913," but that he also grafted its lofty principles onto the Constitution of 1917. He achieved this despite the churlish and/or selfish opposition of Emiliano Zapata, Francisco Villa, the reactionaries, and United States authorities. A sovereign, proud, and "marvelous contemporary Mexico" is the legacy of Carranza's admirable social reconstruction (p. 187).

The book's format—four unbalanced chapters and three appendixes, covering the period 1913–1917—is convoluted. It is not a monograph, but rather a collection of diverse pro-Carranza documents, many previously published, loosely connected by tendentious narrative. Some excerpts from the Carrancista organ *El Constitucionalista* are worthwhile. There are various minor errors and distortions which Fabela, his *coordinador*, and *investigadores* failed to correct. They are perhaps inherent in the propagandistic and hagiographic nature of some of the sources.

The more serious distortions include the portrayal of Zapata as unprincipled bandit and Villa as bloodthirsty traitor and stooge of the reaction and American imperialism. The best of recent scholarship, most notably that of Katz, Warman, and Womack, holds that these figures were largely independent-minded social revolutionaries, while Carranza was the defender of his bourgeois class interests and the ultimate beneficiary of American foreign policy. This view is not convincingly challenged by *La victoria de Carranza*.

Although an unworthy adjunct to the fundamental sources which are the *Documentos históricos de la Revolución Mexicana*, revolutionary scholars will want to consult this work because it is a statement on the nature of Carrancismo by one of its major architects, and because it occasionally reminds us where to look for useful information on both pro- and anti-Carranza revolutionary figures.

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O Conselho de Estado: O Quinto Poder? By JOSÉ HONÓRIO RODRIGUES. Brasília, 1978. Centro Gráfico do Senado Federal. Illustrations. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. xv, 417. Paper.

Atas do Conselho de Estado, 1822–1889: Obra Comemorativa do Sesquicentenário da Instituição Parlamentar. 13 vols. Edited by JOSÉ HONÓRIO RODRIGUES. Brasília, 1973–1978. Centro Gráfico do Senado Federal. Illustrations. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. lxxx, 116, lxxix, 362, xxviii, 299, xxxii, 524, xxvii, 412, xl, 434, xlii, 466, xvii, 487, xxviii, 266, xxxii, 251, xxxiv, 307, xxviii, 274, viii, 125. Paper.

To understand the politics of the Brazilian Empire, one must understand the Conselho de Estado. This task has been made easier with the publication of the *Atas do Conselho*. The document collection is a necessary acquisition for libraries and for serious scholars of the empire.

The Conselho functioned to advise the emperor in the use of his Moderating Power. The emperor picked the twelve life-term members who together constituted an intimate, personal cabinet which in theory could not initiate legislation but which in practice came close. The council debated key policy and legislative issues and conveyed their opinions to the emperor who often passed them along directly to the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

In his introductory volume, general editor José Honório Rodrigues describes the Conselho as a special "fifth branch" of the government and chronicles its three separate incarnations under the empire (1822–1823, 1823–1834, and 1842–1889). The council first served regent Dom Pedro during the transition to independence; reinstated, it then assisted Dom Pedro (now Emperor Dom Pedro I) and was eventually abolished by the Additional Act in 1834; reconstituted a second time, the council operated throughout most of Dom Pedro II's reign.

The twelve volumes of *Atas do Conselho* include an individual preface by editor Rodrigues and his able collaborators, Pedro Calmon, Arthur Cézár Ferreira Reis, Francisco Iglésias, Barbosa Lima Sobrinho, Raimundo Magalhães Júnior, Herculano Gomes Mathias, and José Antônio Soares de Souza. The thirteenth volume is an index of subjects and names. Without access to the manuscripts we must assume that the editing has been faithful to the originals.

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Anais da Provincia de São Pedro: História da Colonização Alemã no Rio Grande do Sul. By JOSÉ FELICIANO FERNANDES PINHEIRO. Introduction by VIANA MOOG. 4th ed. Petrópolis, 1978. Editora Vozes. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 250. Paper.

The statesman known as the Viscount of São Leopoldo (1774–1847) originally published this carefully documented contemporary history in 1819 and amplified it for a new edition in 1836. It is of interest for the historian of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, the Sete Missões district of Uruguay and of the Luso-Spanish war of 1766–1777. The present edition also includes a long and very interesting introduction by Viana Moog detailing the efforts of Fernandes Pinheiro in support of the German colonization program in Rio Grande do Sul as well as his work as an historian. Apparently the subtitle of the work—*A History of German Colonization in Rio Grande do Sul*—refers to this introduction since the body of the work is surprisingly silent on the subject of German colonization.

The first two chapters of the *Anais* are a topographical and geological discussion of Rio Grande and a history of its early eighteenth-century settlement. The third chapter concerns the 1750 border agreement and the remaining fourteen chapters are predominantly devoted to details of the Luso-Spanish war. Occasional paragraphs in the war narrative make mention of crops grown and exported in the period and the size and growth of cattle ranches, but these topics are not much dwelt upon. Much more satisfactory for social historians are the short descriptions of Santa Catarina and Sete Missões. Fernandes Pinheiro presents eighteenth-century population figures by community and race as well as details on social and eco-