

arly attention. Ellner's work examines one important aspect of that nation's democratic development that has not been studied in detail: inter- and intraparty rivalry during the years between the end of the Juan Vicente Gómez dictatorship in 1935 and the military coup of 1948. It focuses specifically on relations between the two major groups on the left, the Communist party of Venezuela (PCV) and Acción Democrática, especially in the area of labor organization. The author subdivides the period into three distinct phases: (1) 1936, the year of leftist unity; (2) 1937–45, when the left split into communist and noncommunist factions, which fought each other for control of Venezuela's incipient labor movement; and (3) the 1945–48 *trienio*, when Acción Democrática (AD) took political power and consolidated its control over organized labor.

This informative and well-balanced study provides a more complete explanation than previous accounts for AD's victory over the PCV in its struggle to organize Venezuela's workers, especially in the oil fields. Ellner also makes a convincing case that the AD government's obsession with maintaining "social peace" (labor harmony, no strikes) in order to increase production and government income returned to haunt it when workers failed to mobilize to defend the regime when it was faced with military insurrection. He further demonstrates that the factionalism that wracked AD in the 1960s had its origins in internal divisions that opened up in the 1940s. It was not, as some other scholars have claimed, primarily a product of divergent positions on the Cuban Revolution.

The author should be commended for his thorough research into contemporary party publications, political tracts, and newspapers, and for having interviewed almost a hundred persons, including many of the major political and labor leaders of the period.

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*El régimen jurídico de los tratados internacionales en Colombia.* By GERMÁN CAVELIER. Bogotá: Editorial Kelly, 1979. Bibliography. Indexes. Pp. xi, 604. Paper.

Germán Cavelier is very likely Colombia's leading authority on international law. He has also published extensively on his country's diplomatic history. In this regard, specialists will recall his legalistically oriented four-volume *La política internacional de Colombia* (Bogotá, 1959), still an indispensable point of departure, as well as his more recent *Memoria histórico-jurídica sobre el asunto de Los Monjes* (Bogotá, 1977).

The present work is a textbook of Colombian international experience

and norms structured around the treaties (now more than 550) negotiated by that republic since 1821. The work is probably the first of its kind done in Colombia. It is organized into thirteen chapters (called *títulos*), each, in turn, subdivided into a number of sections (called *capítulos*). In the first chapter, the constitutional genesis of the treaty-making power is expounded; in the second, the nature of the treaty-making is explained; in the third, the powers of the Colombian president in treaty-making are detailed. The fourth chapter treats the ratification process by the Congress, and the fifth discusses the executive's powers insofar as treaty sanctioning and ratification are concerned. The next chapter (the sixth) examines the promulgation, publication, and registration of treaties. In the seventh, their abrogation is investigated, as is their duration in the eighth. International administrative contracts are analyzed as to their legality in the ninth chapter, as are executive covenants in the tenth. The eleventh deals with multinational treaties, such as those of the Latin American Free Trade Association and the Andean Pact. The following chapter considers the constitutional, as well as the international, legal implications of the Andean Pact. The thirteenth and final chapter discusses the various constitutional reforms proposed in Colombia since 1966 and their effect on the treaty approbation processes.

*El régimen jurídico* is blessed (pp. 547–557) with a well-chosen bibliography, as well as with (pp. 559–581) topical and subject indexes.

To repeat, although this is intrinsically a textbook, it is a sophisticated one. Thus, historians, political scientists, and foreign service personnel will find it a convenient *vade mecum* to Colombian treaties, their national and international legal implications, and to the heavily French-inspired Colombian diplomatic doctrine.

In fine, Cavelier has produced a book whose utility is matched only by its high degree of professional competence. Colombianists concerned with its subject must remain in his debt.

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*Memoria histórico-jurídica sobre el asunto de Los Monjes*. By GERMÁN CAVELIER. Bogotá: Editorial Kelly, 1977. Paper.

The *Memoria histórico-jurídica sobre el asunto de Los Monjes*, concerning disputed sovereignty over islands off the Guajira Peninsula, is an exhaustive compilation and analysis of diplomatic and legal documents dating from the early nineteenth century to the 1970s. Dealing primarily