

“the diplomacy of suppression,” in fascinating terms. President William Howard Taft, although initially sympathetic to Díaz, even to the point of ignoring the law, ultimately concluded in May 1911 that he could not count upon the Mexican president to uphold the peace. The switch to Madero entailed some incongruities—the binational police and espionage system previously used against him now helped to sustain him with United States support—but aptly expressed Taft’s preference for moderates in power rather than radicals. By backing Madero, Taft undercut Flores Magón. A similar calculation later contributed to the recognition of Venustiano Carranza. The Woodrow Wilson administration also carried out antiforeign and antiradical campaigns, and *revoltoso* activity declined accordingly. Raat marks the end of an era with Ricardo Flores Magón’s death in 1923.

A short summary cannot do justice to the color and descriptiveness of this book. It is rich in detail and cogent in argumentation. Readers will learn that the PLM had a significant female component and that the term “Pinkerton,” applied generically, referred to the operatives of the Furlong Agency in St. Louis. They will also find interpretive questions sensibly addressed: for example, whether Standard Oil bankrolled Madero or whether Flores Magón was the victim of assassination. Raat based his narrative on an impressive array of primary sources in Mexico and the United States and shows that clandestine activities among states figured prominently even during “the innocent years.”

Colorado State University

MARK T. GILDERHUS

Revolution in Baja California: Ricardo Flores Magón’s High Noon. By ETHEL DUFFY TURNER. Edited and annotated by REY DEVIS. Detroit: Blaine Ethridge Books, 1981. Bibliography. Appendix. Index. Chronology. Map. Pp. xv, 119. Cloth. \$14.95.

Here is a brief book, eighty-six pages of text and an eleven-page appendix, embodying several editorials and a speech. The author, wife of the famous John Kenneth Turner, the author of *Barbarous Mexico*, was a close associate of Ricardo Flores Magón and the liberal Junta before, during, and after the events of Baja California in 1911. This work has an editor, Rey Devis, an admirer of the author, of Ricardo Flores Magón, and of the Liberal party struggle.

In 1960 Turner published *Ricardo Flores Magón y el Partido Liberal Mexicano*. Before its publication, she had been at work on a more restricted effort, a recounting of the events in the Baja California revolution

of 1911. The present booklet is that enterprise, unearthed through Davis's diligence. The 1960 book, too, covered the 1911 events, albeit somewhat more briefly. It embodied the entire history of the Liberal party, the Junta, Flores Magón, and his newspaper, *Regeneración*. Hence, it is superior to the present publication in comprehensiveness and perspective, but rather difficult to obtain.

Both Turner's rough draft and her *Partido Liberal Mexicano* book were done before the rather extensive scholarly work that has come forth on Flores Magón in the last two decades. Her viewpoint amounts to Magonismo *puro*. Had it been possible to incorporate information and points of view contributed soon afterward by others, the outlook would have stayed essentially the same—because it is substantially correct—but tempered, qualified, and therefore deepened. As it is, the chief value of this recollection is that it captures for our time the attitude—close to a half century afterward—of a semiparticipant in the events described. This is no small merit. Yet the reader gains little impression of why Flores Magón's cause, in contrast to Madero's, ran into such overwhelming obstacles. That his then secret anarchism invited conflicts is entirely unmentioned. That a leader who was completely absent from the scene of action could not expect much coordination in his movement likewise is omitted. The references to the repeated splits in the liberal ranks, accompanied by lame explanations, are likely to increase, rather than satisfy, curiosity. Finally, the old filibuster story, laid ever since at the liberals' door by the Porfiristas, is to be found, but with General Otis, Harry Chandler, and Dick Ferris offered as the rascals who victimized Flores Magón.

Texas Tech University

LOWELL L. BLAISDELL

Agrarian Populism and the Mexican State: The Struggle for Land in Sonora. By STEVEN E. SANDERSON. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981. Tables. Appendix. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xx, 290. Cloth. \$22.75.

Steven Sanderson's study of the important topic of Mexican agrarian populism is written on three levels. Analytically, he contends that in the history of Mexico, agrarian reform (and other populist reforms) constantly pull against the need for the development of capital. Given the weakness of the Mexican bourgeoisie in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Mexican state itself has stepped in to take charge of capitalist development and has become the arbiter between these two contradic-