

consumption and investment. The regime early on made a critical choice in favor of present over future consumption, and the large Soviet subsidy was used to finance it. Mesa-Lago observes that the current shortages, the large trade deficits, and the huge external debt might have been avoided had those resources been allocated to investment.

Mesa-Lago has given us a carefully researched book as devoid as possible of ideological polemics or biases. He recognizes the shortcomings of the available data and compensates by searching out a variety of sources and posing tests of internal consistency. To all those interested in a dispassionate appraisal of the economic performance of the Cuban revolution, Mesa-Lago has made a valuable contribution.

University of New Mexico

PETER GREGORY

*Arms and Politics in the Dominican Republic.* By G. POPE ATKINS. Boulder: Westview Press, 1981. Tables. Bibliographic essay. Index. Pp. xiv, 158. Cloth. \$20.00.

This is a most welcome book, the first in English to analyze internal Dominican politics from the end of the United States intervention in 1965 to the present. The principal focus of the book is on the role of the armed forces in Dominican politics. There are several major themes. First, at the theoretical level, Atkins makes a persuasive case that standard theories on civil-military relations in Latin America are inapplicable to the Dominican Republic because such theories are based on the premise that the armed forces are a cohesive, disciplined corporate institution, whereas in the Dominican Republic the military is “non-institutionalized,” a collection of personal fiefdoms. Though the Dominican military plays a central political role in its society, its objectives are not political, ideological, or even institutional, but simply to maximize the power and wealth of the leading officers. A second major theme is the total failure of the United States to develop an apolitical and professional military establishment, which was ostensibly one of the major American goals—and responsibilities—following the 1965 intervention. To the contrary, throughout the long, dreary Balaguer years (1966–78), the military was just about as corrupt, opportunistic, and repressive as it had been under Trujillo. Balaguer was able to retain power largely because of his ability to manipulate the generals and keep them happy, either by turning a blind eye to, or by actively encouraging, the blatant corruption and the fierce repression of the political opposition.

It may be that Dominican politics have taken a happier turn since

1978, when Balaguer was defeated by Antonio Guzmán, a liberal reformist, and military plots to override the elections and keep Balaguer in power were thwarted by a combination of Dominican revulsion covering nearly the entire political spectrum and sustained political and economic pressures by Venezuela and the United States. (It was one of the rare bright moments in recent United States policy toward Latin America, for which Jimmy Carter should receive the full historical credit.) Of course, only time will tell whether Guzmán will be successful in his efforts to gain control over the armed forces, get them out of politics, and establish the basis for institutionalized democracy in the Dominican Republic.

SUNY at Buffalo

JEROME SLATER

*The Puerto Ricans: Their History, Culture, and Society.* Edited by AD-ALBERTO LÓPEZ. Cambridge, Mass.: Schenkman Publishing Co., 1980. Map. Notes. Tables. Graphs. Bibliography. Chronology. Pp. xi, 490. Paper.

This collection of essays covers the history of the Puerto Rican people, first on their island homeland and more recently as one of the unassimilated groups of new immigrants in the United States. It is unfortunate, however, that the essays are of such uneven quality. For the most part, those of poor quality are the ones expressly prepared for the collection while the superb contributions have first appeared elsewhere or have been prepared for other purposes.

The collection is divided into three parts: the first and shortest section covers the history of Puerto Rico up to this century; the second section contains essays dealing with United States exploitation of the island; and the final section focuses on the Puerto Rican migrants in the United States. There are excellent essays in the second and third sections. Two outstanding contributions by Angel Quintero Rivera are based on primary research and, although available elsewhere, bring to the collection new insights, gleaned from archival material, into the economic development or lack of such development on the island during the early twentieth century. The book ends with a brief but brilliant piece based on a lecture delivered ten years ago by Frank Bonilla at Brooklyn College.

To get to these gems and several others, however, one must wade through transposed pages and a distracting number of typographical errors in both Spanish and English; alarming errors in fact that bring into doubt the reliability of the authors; confusion in names and personalities that make reading more a puzzle than an education; and the creation of