

Argentine Dictator: Juan Manuel de Rosas 1829–1852. By JOHN LYNCH. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981. Map. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 414. Cloth. \$65.00.

In this first English-language biography of Juan Manuel de Rosas, John Lynch writes that to “study Rosas is to study the original bases of political power in Argentina, . . . to understand more fully the roots of *caudillismo* . . .” (p. 1), and to comprehend the period after 1820, when Argentina suffered “universal dismemberment” (p. 26) politically. Lynch focuses on Rosas’s domination of Buenos Aires Province between 1829 and 1852, characterizing the man and his politics as both products and designers of the times. Two biographical and seven topical chapters display Rosas’s lifelong interests and beliefs, and the way in which he played his public role to protect and expand his own estate and those of relatives and supporters who waxed wealthy from land, stockraising, and exports. Combining excellent source materials with critical scholarship, Lynch shows how Rosas and his faction epitomized, profited from, and conflicted with major economic changes from the era of independence until the mid-nineteenth century.

Lynch pictures Rosas’s system for the province: control of gauchos and Indians; expansion of cattle-raising; concentration of land in few hands; neglect of artisan and machine industry. Society was polarized in two classes, and careful relations pursued with the chief trading partner, Britain. Rosas’s political and administrative techniques, and his unwillingness to delegate a particle of power, are effectively set forth.

This book is not intended as a complete history of Buenos Aires Province in Rosas’s time. Lynch deals with foreign policies involving only Britain, France, and Uruguay; and interprovincial relations—the struggles between *unitarios* and *federales* in what later became the Argentine Republic—appear only as background. Little is said of the province’s troubled finances, although Lynch demonstrates how fiscal and commercial policies were calculated to sustain the landowners’ export business.

In a field marked by ample publication of historical manuscripts and rich resources of newspapers, government reports, published travel accounts, and many fine histories and monographs, this book nonetheless makes impressive contributions. Lynch gives convincing negative answers to the most controversial questions regarding Rosas: whether he was a nationalist, a populist, or a federalist. As for whether Rosas was strongly influenced or managed by his wife or his daughter, Lynch finds no answer, but clearly provides the facts. The explanation of policies toward Britain and British subjects in the province is excellent, as are the treatments of the crisis of the regime, 1849–52, and of Rosas’s twenty-

five-year exile in England. Lynch's account of the governor's progress toward total control of the population is as convincing as is his demonstration of Rosas's conservative, aristocratic attitudes—and his posture of social divisiveness: “to protect my friends at all costs, and to destroy my enemies by any means” (p. 65).

For this period of Argentine history, over almost a century important works have been appearing including, recently, many fine monographs. Among these works Lynch's differs sharply from those of “revisionists” such as Julio Irazusta while paralleling—and achieving sharper focus than—those of the best “neo-Liberals” like Ernesto Celesia and Enrique M. Barba. This well-written book is a guide to the literature and the sources; it is one of the best on the place and the times; and, while neither an exhaustive biography nor a comprehensive history of the province, it is the best work on the subject.

Occidental College

CLIFTON B. KROEBER

INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

The CIA in Guatemala: The Foreign Policy of Intervention. By RICHARD H. IMMERMANN. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1982. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 291. Cloth.

Bitter Fruit: The Untold Story of the American Coup in Guatemala. By STEPHEN SCHLESINGER and STEPHEN KINZER. Introduction by HARRISON SALISBURY. Garden City: Doubleday and Co., 1982. Maps. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xv, 320. Cloth. \$16.95.

Both of these books are exposés of CIA–State Department perfidy in the United States–sponsored 1954 coup against the Jacobo Arbenz government of Guatemala. What closer observers have long suspected has now been proven. The incriminating evidence? Government documents released to these authors under the Freedom of Information Act. These dirty tricks are now a matter of public record: President Dwight D. Eisenhower's secret decision to oust Arbenz, the use of CIA money, arms, and mercenaries to do the job, State Department and Pentagon complicity in this effort, the subsequent installation of a United States–puppet president (Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas) in Guatemala, and the deliberate falsification and cover-up of United States foreign policy actions.