

1914: *La intervención americana en México*. By RICARDO FLORES MAGÓN. Mexico City: Ediciones Antorcha, 1981. Pp. 93. Paper.

Ricardo Flores Magón observed the Mexican Revolution from United States exile, but his understanding of events, demonstrated in this collection of essays from 1914 editions of *Regeneración*, exceeded that of his contemporaries. The editors of this volume are correct in their assertion that United States intervention at Veracruz is one of the least understood episodes of the Revolution. The publication of Flores Magón's analysis of the events as they unfolded is part of the effort to reassess the significance of the April 1914 undertaking.

For Flores Magón, the following were some of the essential elements to consider. The occupation constituted an invasion of Mexico that all the citizenry should have opposed. It was part of a pattern of United States government hostility toward the "Huertistas, Zapatistas, libertarios, Vazquistas, etc.," and "support of Carranza." These actions were rooted in the defense of the interests of American companies. United States policy is determined by and for a privileged few. Its democracy is an illusion. In failing to resist, Carranza and Villa sold out.

Without access to documents now available to historians, Flores Magón correctly analyzed United States hostility to Zapata and the projected occupation of Mexico City to forestall a working-class takeover. He pointed out the importance of Cuban and Gulf Coast ports in the arms traffic between the United States and the Constitutionalists when the 1914 embargo was imposed. Finally, he appreciated the significance of Carranza and Wilson's alliance at Niagara Falls.

Ironically, he overlooked the importance of Veracruz being handed over, with its full warehouses, to an otherwise beaten Carranza. He consistently underrated Villa and lost an important potential ally.

This book is a useful contribution to the study of the Mexican Revolution.

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The Process of Political Domination in Ecuador. By AGUSTÍN CUEVA. Translated by DANIELLE SALTI. New Brunswick: Transaction Books, 1982. Notes. Appendix. Name Index. Pp. 106. Cloth.

This little book is a welcome addition to the sparse existing literature in English on the politics of Ecuador. The volume is composed of three parts. The first is a historical review of events leading to the Velasquista revolution of 1944. The second, and the chief contribution of the book, is an analysis of Velasquismo. The third, an appendix added as something of an afterthought, discusses the politics of oil in Ecuador.

Velasquismo illustrates a Latin American proposition, albeit exaggerated, that "every 'ism' is a somebody-ism." The "somebody" of Velasquismo was Dr. José María Velasco Ibarra, whose charismatic figure strongly influenced the course of Ecuadorian politics from the revolution of 1944 until shortly before his death in 1979. Cueva quite correctly regards Velasco Ibarra's influence upon the Ecuadorian scene as disquieting, but also—and more interestingly—finds Velasquismo to be functional. On the one hand, it attracted the masses, especially the urban lower classes, primarily responsible for having swept Velasco Ibarra into the Ecuadorian presidency no fewer than five times. But, on the other, Velasquismo did not threaten the upper classes severely, and Cueva concludes that this "somebody-ism" functioned as a species of device for the continuation of the bourgeois order, such as it was, in Ecuador.

Students will find *The Process of Political Domination in Ecuador* to be a valuable work on the politics of one of the lesser-known countries of Latin America, and Cueva's

thesis is clearly defensible. Not the least of his contributions is his analysis of Velasco Ibarra, who, in his unique and often flamboyant way, was one of the more interesting and colorful Latin American figures of his generation.

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Curaçao. By RENÉ RÖMER. Foreword by B. M. LEITO. Curaçao: UNICA, 1981. Map. Tables. Notes. Figures. Bibliography. Pp. 244. Paper.

This compact volume offers in very readable form a survey of Curaçao society from its foundations as a Dutch trading post in the seventeenth century and its experience as a slave colony, to the decolonization process in the twentieth century.

Among the author's conclusions about the nature of Curaçao slave society is that "leniency" was not necessarily culturally determined. A comparison with Dutch Surinam, and an examination of plantation society in Curaçao itself, where conditions led to the 1795 slave revolt, reveals the existence of some harsher master-slave relationships in the Dutch slave regime. Rather, the general character of slavery in Curaçao was governed by the reality that most slave owners had only a few slaves, and mutual dependence between slave and owner qualified the harshness of the relationship between them.

A second conclusion is that rigid distinctions cannot be made among artisan, household, and agricultural slaves since the labor of each slave varied considerably.

The discussion in the second chapter demonstrates that emancipation (August 2, 1862) did not transform legal freedom into social and economic improvement for the laborer and that the law was used as an instrument to reinforce the free laborer's dependence on the planter, while color discrimination became an important variable in interpersonal relations and social mobility.

The third chapter examines the transformation of the stagnant economy of the post-emancipation era, under the impetus of oil refining, and discusses the implications for modern political movements, the formation of labor unions, modification of the racially based class structure, and the general factors, including racial ones, that sparked the 1969 riots.

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The United States and Latin American Sphere of Influence. Vol. I. *The Era of Caribbean Intervention, 1890–1930*. Edited By ROBERT FREEMAN SMITH. Melbourne, Fla.: Robert E. Krieger Publishing Co., 1981. Map. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. iv, 99. Paper. \$5.50.

This brief work, the first of presumably two volumes on the subject, is essentially a book of readings designed as a supplementary text to courses in United States diplomatic and Latin American history. Smith introduces the seventeen selections with a thirty-five-page summary of the Latin American policy of the United States from James Monroe to Herbert Hoover. The selections themselves, however, deal mostly with the origins and development of the United States empire in the Caribbean from the War with Spain to the second Nicaraguan intervention of 1926–33.

Smith has done an able job of identifying the various motives for Caribbean empire, presenting contemporaneous assessments of North America's role in the Caribbean, and, finally, offering interpretations of policy by seven historians (including, properly, himself).

Seventeen excerpts in only sixty pages, however, means that each selection can nec-