

at rationality and profit maximization were limited by imperfect knowledge about and control over factors of production.

Students of Brazilian and Latin American history need to read this book for its timely corrective to the “oppressive planter” myth and for its portrayal of the coffee economy in an international context. Nonspecialists will benefit from its clear exposition, many tables and graphs, and well-chosen photographs.

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Meio Século de Combate: Diálogo com Cordeiro de Farias. By ASPÁSIA CAMARGO and WALTER DE GÓES. Preface by CARLOS CASTELLO BRANCO. Rio de Janeiro: Editora Nova Fronteira, 1981. Notes. Illustrations. Appendixes. Index. Pp. 757. Paper.

This massive deposition is neither memoir nor autobiography, but combines the best features of both. It is a vast improvement over the memoirs of Góes Monteiro, dictated to that vacuous Boswell, Lourival Coutinho, because Cordeiro’s interviewer, historian Aspásia Camargo, asked pointed, well-informed questions and kept her opinions to herself. It is similarly an improvement over Juarez Távora’s autobiography because Cordeiro’s reflections were prodded by a skillful questioner.

What has emerged from more than ninety hours of interviews is an impressively critical, valuable description of Brazil’s metamorphosis over the past sixty years by a man who saw it all. He was a *tenente*, a conspirator in the 1930 revolution; fought against São Paulo in 1932, as well as the rebels of 1935 and 1938; commanded the artillery of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force in Italy; helped remove Vargas from office in 1945; was active as a soldier and politician during the subsequent twenty years; conspired to remove Goulart in 1964; was Brazil’s first minister of the interior under Castello Branco; and continued to be involved in government affairs until his death early in 1981.

Not surprisingly, Cordeiro dwelt on the events that affected him most directly. The first was the Prestes Column, in which he participated from beginning to end, and the second was the Italian campaign. In both cases he was fighting, and, being a soldier, he loved it. Those events also, he freely admitted, profoundly affected him politically, drawing him into the interventions of 1930, 1945, and 1964 as a vigorous conspirator and participant.

The person who emerges from this deposition is curiously equivocal.

A man who was often at the center of important events, he repeatedly portrayed himself (as have others) as an intermediary or moderator; a valuable role, to be sure, but almost suspiciously self-effacing. (He rose very rapidly in rank after 1930; was he a brilliant soldier, useful, or both?) When it was fashionable to be a rebel, he was; when it was not, he was not. Every important action he took was in step with the times; this allowed him in the interrogation to duck questions of motive, which he frequently did.

What we are given is, in Cordeiro's own words, "minha versão dos factos." That version is, nonetheless, extremely important because it is at times very revealing, particularly of people. He was always frank, even scathingly critical, in his assessments of people he knew; he was not unkind about those with whom he was not well acquainted.

The book is copiously illustrated, and contains more than a hundred pages of supporting documents. It is a very important work, but one for the knowledgeable student of twentieth-century Brazil.

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Socialism, Liberalism, and Dictatorship in Paraguay. By PAUL H. LEWIS. Foreword by ROBERT WESSON. New York: Praeger, 1982. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 154. Cloth. \$18.95.

Under the general editorship of Robert Wesson, the Hoover Institution and Praeger began the *Politics in Latin America* series, "intended to provide a factual background for the political affairs of Latin America" (p. vii). The present volume is the third study in the series, following those on Central America and Panama. The editor, unfortunately, strains mightily at the truth in stating: "Small, poor, largely Indian in race, Paraguay is one of the South American countries most similar to Central America; Stroessner has long been the nearest counterpart to Somoza" (p. vii). Author Lewis, of course, is too well acquainted with Paraguay to fall into such errors.

Beginning with a short but perceptive analysis of Paraguay's political culture, Lewis cruises swiftly through history from 1537 to 1870 in a single chapter—a formidable task that allows a brief mention of Jesuit missions, the Comunero revolt, José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, Carlos Antonio and Francisco Solano López, and the Paraguayan War. In agreement with recent works by Richard Alan White and John Hoyt Williams, the author labels the Paraguay of Francia and the two López