

the “Socialist State.” The seven decades from 1870 to 1940 are covered in an extremely brief review of “The Rise and Fall of Paraguayan Liberalism.” The remaining six chapters are a description of Alfredo Stroessner’s rise to power, his government, power base, policies, and opponents, and concludes with an excellent analysis of Paraguay’s political experience in its Latin American context.

The book’s title implies that Paraguay has moved from socialism to liberalism to dictatorship. The regimes of Francia and the two López did have many things in common with the most oppressive socialist states. Only by accepting a narrow definition can the first Colorado era (1878–1904) and the Liberal turmoil (1904–40) be characterized as liberalism. The difficulty comes from applying to Paraguay labels derived from European political thought.

Lewis is at his best in dealing with Stroessner, whose dictatorship he treated more fully in *Paraguay under Stroessner* (1980). He finds that the *stronato* closely approximates “Juan Linz’s model of an ‘authoritarian regime’” (p. 127), and, hedging his bets, predicts that “future Paraguayan governments will tend to go more socialist in direction than the *stronato* has; . . . But it would be equally predictable that Paraguayans, . . . will revert under the stress of change to the familiar authoritarian traditions of their past” (p. 130).

Based upon good coverage of the best secondary literature and Lewis’s own extensive research on Paraguayan politics since 1937, this book offers a convenient, well-written, and fast-moving analysis of the Paraguayan condition, valuable to the scholar and to all visitors to Paraguay. It is, in brief, an excellent explanation of why this fascinating country is unique.

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INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

Latin America and the Second World War. Vol. I. 1938–1942. By R. A. HUMPHREYS. London: Athlone Press, University of London, Institute of Latin American Studies Monographs, 1981. Notes. Indexes. Pp. 232. Cloth. \$33.75.

R. A. Humphreys has provided a unique synthesis of Latin America on the eve of World War II, from 1939 through the Rio de Janeiro

Conference in early 1942. In a relatively short monograph, the author offers an excellent overview of how each Latin American nation acted and responded to the pending world crisis; how these nations sympathized with the Allied effort while they concurrently desired neutrality; how the solidifying United States–British alliance affected hemispheric internal and external affairs; how Latin American domestic politics developed during the “phony war”; and how these nations reacted to the attack on Pearl Harbor. There are also sections on the inter-American gatherings during this era.

Humphreys writes about his subject from four vantage points: separate entities, bilateral relations (such as the border war between Peru and Ecuador), matters regarding the United States, and, finally, the British. Of the above, the author’s description of the English impact on Latin America offers added insight into the movement toward global confrontation. His use of British foreign office records illustrates how that embattled country viewed internal Latin American matters, good neighbor diplomacy, and the rivalry over hemispheric allegiance between the British and United States diplomatic corps as seen through the former’s eyes. This, of course, results in some natural bias. Humphreys’s interpretation of Franklin Roosevelt’s neutrality zone, for example, stresses the British feeling that the zone was unenforceable. This is valid. That zone, however, set the precedent that allowed the United States to expand its assistance to the Allies in the Caribbean and along North Atlantic sea routes.

Despite this slight difference of opinion, Humphreys achieves the goal of his book, and his use of foreign office papers adds a new dimension to the historiography of the era. The author’s style and organization make for easy reading. For the serious student of Latin American affairs during the early stages of the Second World War, this is a welcome addition to both personal and university libraries.

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Central America: International Dimensions of the Crisis. Edited by RICHARD E. FEINBERG. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1982. Notes. Map. Tables. Index. Pp. vii, 269. Cloth. \$24.50. Paper. \$12.50.

This is the study of Central America that we have been awaiting. Dispassionate yet incisive, the twelve essays that make up this able collection represent sturdy scholarship and speak well not only of the individual authors, but also of the book’s editor, Richard Feinberg.