

II stimulated Brazilian industry. *Formação* combines history and economics masterfully to the advantage of both disciplines.

This combination is less fruitful in the selection from *Subdesenvolvimento e Estagnação na América Latina* reprinted here, in which Furtado sketches a five-sector model to illustrate how export growth followed by import-substituting industrialization can lead to stagnation as production shifts to more capital-intensive sectors. In a theme common to several of his other works—including the portions of *A Operação Nordeste* and *Um Projeto para o Brasil* included in this collection—he assumes that a distorted profile of demand caused by a concentration of income deriving from capital-intensive industrialization would lock in a tendency toward stagnation.

The slowing of Latin American growth that led Furtado, as well as ECLA, into gloom by 1967 about prospects for further industrialization, however, turned out to be cyclical rather than structural in origin. The Brazilian “miracle” of 1968 through 1973 demonstrated that even a highly skewed income distribution can fuel growth. In the early 1960s, however, Furtado was more prescient. *A Pre-Revolução Brasileira*, thirty-three pages of which are reprinted, called attention to the impasse Brazil would face if the government failed to devise fiscal means to fund required expenditures without massive deficits.

After decades of distinguished governmental and academic service, Furtado has gained the right to speculate elegantly—as he does in *Criatividade e Dependência na Civilização Industrial*—on the implications of quantum mechanics for social science methodology (p. 210) and to lament that in high-income countries one-fourth of the population requires psychiatric care (p. 212). Readers of this book could probably have gained a deeper understanding of his significance from inclusion of his analyses of agrarian reform or of the authoritarian regime in Brazil.

The editor provides a chronological survey written from a Marxist perspective of Furtado’s major contributions.

University of Florida

DAVID DENSLow

#### RELATED TOPICS

*Scheming for the Poor: The Politics of Redistribution in Latin America.* By WILLIAM ASCHER. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1984. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 348. Cloth. \$25.00.

The title of this book is quite apt. Essentially it is a sustained scholarly based polemic; that is, it uses scholarly technique to mount an argument leading to a set

of derived principles of practical guidance for political leaders, particularly in underdeveloped countries. The principles are derived to answer the question of how best to alleviate poverty by altering in a progressive way existing patterns of income distribution. For Ascher the best way is a reformist strategy in which leaders systematically scheme to manipulate a variety of strategic and tactical variables common to all such contexts.

In mounting his argument, Ascher uses the technique of conceptually focused analysis over time of three Latin American cases: Argentina, Peru, and Chile. The analysis itself is based on an interpretative reading of selected secondary sources dealing with the three cases. The time frame is the post-World War II period, which he breaks down conceptually into three types of regimes that followed different strategies for attempting to redistribute in the favor of lower income groups: Authoritarian Populists, Democratic Reformists, and the Radicals.

Ascher then employs the comparative method to probe and delineate in each category approaches that gained at least some success and those that resulted in failure. From this comparative analysis, then, positive and negative principles of action are drawn, first, for all three cases in each specific regime category and, then, as a set of general principles summing the experiences.

A concluding chapter lays out the principles along a set of manipulable variables like: instruments, presentation, support, opposition, linkage, timing, and so forth. The conclusion, as I said, is for a reform-mongering strategy, but unlike other would-be reform theorists, Ascher argues for the need to focus less on mobilizing support than on strategies that circumvent or neutralize opposition.

On the face of it, this is a book that could well provoke some lively debate and counterpolemics. Also, many may well question Ascher's approach and methodology. Such a debate, if carried out in the same spirit of scholarly polemic that frames this work, could well prove most useful to all those who share either a scholarly or active interest in these questions within the Latin American context; for, the work itself is well focused and sets out in systematic fashion a strong and well-maintained argument. In sum, it is a substantial piece of work that demands serious attention.

University of Pittsburgh

JAMES M. MALLOY

*Transnationals and the Third World: The Struggle for Culture.* By ARMAND MITTELART. South Hadley, Mass.: Bergin and Garvey Publishers, 1983. Figure. Notes. Index. Pp. vii, 184. Cloth. \$22.95.

Who in the United Nations' Center on Transnational Corporations had the silly idea of commissioning two separate reports on the "positive" and "negative" sociocultural impact of transnational firms on developing countries? And how much time and money were spent on the writing and publication of what is essentially a tired rehash of the now largely passé debate of a decade or more ago?