

In fact, he is downright unkind; and charges of insincerity and incompetence are hurled against all those who seek to make Martí something other than what Ripoll insists he is.

These essays, hence, are not so much a contribution to the scholarship on Martí as they are to the polemics about Martí. And herein lies their real significance, for the debate on Martí today is, in fact, a debate on the revolution. So powerful does the presence of Martí loom over the *familia cubana* that it is obligatory for Cubans on both sides of the Florida Straits to advance claims of direct political lineage as a source of legitimacy. Very early the reader comes to an understanding of what is at stake. Ripoll attacks those who pretend to construct a different Martí, for he senses that this line of reasoning would locate Martí in Havana. This is unacceptable, and hence this Martí is inadmissible. Ripoll's line of reasoning places Martí in exile.

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LOUIS A. PÉREZ, JR.

The Taming of Fidel Castro. By MAURICE HALPERIN. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1981. Maps. Notes. Epilog. Index. Pp. x, 345. Cloth. \$18.95.

Everyone with an interest in Cuba should read *The Taming of Fidel Castro*. There is simply no other comprehensive work on the subject that is so well written and entertaining. Ostensibly, the book covers events that took place during 1964–68, but the author has incorporated pertinent information on developments right through 1980.

The thesis of the work, that Castro and the Cuban Revolution have been “sovietized” and “de-radicalized,” is hardly new. Still, the veteran Cuba-watcher is likely to come away from reading this book with fresh information and insights, even on such well-worn topics as the place of the “old Communists” in the revolution, the adventures of Che Guevara, and the story of Cuba's deteriorating relationship with Israel.

Halperin brings some unusual credentials to his study of Cuba. During World War II, he directed the Latin American division of the Office of Strategic Services. In 1953, he left the United States after the United States Attorney General accused him of belonging to the Communist party and of passing secrets to Soviet agents. In Moscow, he met Che Guevara, who invited him to Cuba; Halperin worked in Havana from 1962 to 1968 as a professor of economic geography and as a consultant to the Ministry of Foreign Trade. Today the author lives in Canada, and says, “Times have changed, and I have changed.”

To judge from his book, Halperin's personal experiences have not left him unduly bitter toward his country of birth, nor noticeably partial to the countries that afforded him haven. Toward the early Castro's quest for national independence, Halperin is very sympathetic. He believes that at more than one critical junct-

ture—he emphasizes the summer of 1964—Castro anxiously sought to normalize relations with the United States as the means to creating more freedom of maneuver for Cuba in its dealings with both the Soviets and the North Americans. According to Halperin, Castro indicated that he was willing to sacrifice his support for Latin American revolutionary movements to attain this goal, but his overtures were arrogantly spurned by the United States. Halperin does not, however, go so far as to claim that the same deal is available now, more than ten years later. Indeed, he blames Castro's "enormous and insatiable hunger for leadership and glory" for Cuba's current role in Angola and Ethiopia, an involvement that Halperin considers detrimental to Cuba's long-term interests. Halperin even hints that "normalization," on the terms it is now available would be more advantageous to the Soviets and Cubans than to the United States, and for this reason, unlikely to come about.

Some readers may find Halperin's view of the Cuban Revolution too cynical. Plainly he relishes analyzing the Machiavellian subtleties of statecraft. He sternly judges socialism by its performance, not its promises. As a man of many years and much experience, however, perhaps Halperin is more entitled to his views than most.

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RHODA P. RABKIN

Cuba: Dilemmas of a Revolution. By JUAN M. DEL AGUILA. Foreword by RONALD SCHNEIDER. Boulder: Westview Press, 1985. Map. Tables. Notes. Illustrations. Index. Pp. xiii, 193. Cloth. \$30.00. Paper. \$12.95.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Cuban Revolution, that seismic event which put Latin America on the map and created jobs for hundreds of Latin Americanists, has received scant attention—a panel here, a paper there—from the academic community.

It is a pleasure then to discover Juan del Aguila's compact overview of the revolution. His *Cuba: Dilemmas of a Revolution* is part of Westview Press's Profiles of Contemporary Latin America series. It is basically a political history based on conventional sources.

Its charm lies in its able synthesis of events. Short chapters move swiftly through the colonial and prerevolutionary period and on to the triumph of the revolution, its experiments in idealism and coercion, its adventurous foreign policy, and, finally, to the present era of "stable rule."

Aguila's approach is basically that of a moderate. He understands why a pre-revolutionary Cuba that was characterized by political fragmentation and "sterile electoral contests built around semi-corrupt clientelistic arrangements" might become a unitary and totalitarian state, even if he cannot forgive it.

He is sympathetic to the Cuban nationalists who argued that the United