

Castro and Guevara, converted a number of formalistic democracies, which Che called “oligarchic dictatorships,” into militarist antipolitical regimes which indeed systematically eliminated peaceful (that is, political) methods of struggle. Thus, the process predicted by Che of “unmasking” oligarchic dictatorships advanced notably (p. 29).

This work might very well become an indispensable reference for the Latin Americanist who is often asked to give local talks on the Central American crisis and other problems of the region in the 1980s. It is written in a clear, straightforward manner which cuts through much of the emotional baggage usually associated with the topic. At the same time, it recognizes the intrinsic importance of that emotion: “Che’s *Guerrilla Warfare* thus reaffirms the value of human volition and commitment, the importance of individual will and action” (p. 5). The extensive literature on this subject is handled skillfully and with authority in the notes. One item that might be misleading is the suggestion that Khrushchev’s support for wars of liberation became public in 1961 in connection with Cuba (p. 19). Actually, Khrushchev had taken this position in speeches since at least 1956, in the era of Bandung.

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Latin American Population and Urbanization Analysis: Maps and Statistics, 1950–1985. Edited by RICHARD W. WILKIE. Los Angeles: UCLA Latin American Center Publications, 1985. Illustrations. Maps. Tables. Pp. xxii, 431. Cloth. \$65.00.

During the roughly three decades covered by this volume, the population of Latin America grew by more than two and a quarter times—from under 154 million to over 357 million—fueling the most rapid and massive shift in population from rural to urban areas in human history. Scholars have scarcely scratched the surface of the manifold implications of these demographic changes within the ecological, economic, political, psychological, and sociological dimensions of Latin American reality. Perhaps this book will prompt more research of this kind.

Geographer Richard Wilkie has drawn together here more useful information about the specific characteristics of this unprecedented demographic upheaval than can be found in any other single source. Moreover, he presents these data with admirable clarity and consistency both for the major regions of the area and for each of the 20 countries individually. He accompanies these graphic and tabular presentations with a wealth of photographs, which alone would make the volume of considerable interest. A further especially helpful feature is the three-dimensional, computer-drawn maps displaying by various civil divisions total population, population density, and population change between the two most recent censuses.

The only unevenness in the book derives unavoidably from the irregularity

and delays of some countries in taking and processing their censuses. In spite of this occasional annoyance, however, the book is a truly indispensable reference tool with the unique characteristic of being almost equally fascinating and informative for both scholars and beginning students.

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Geopolitics and Conflict in South America: Quarrels Among Neighbors. By JACK CHILD. Foreword by ROBERT WESSON. New York: Praeger, 1984. Figures. Notes. Tables. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 196. Cloth. \$34.95.

As compared with Western Europe, the Middle East, East and Southeast Asia, and most recently Africa, Latin America has been remarkably free of international war during the last 160 years. In a continent supposedly characterized by a "political culture of violence," the relative absence of major conflict among the countries of the area should offer lessons from which the rest of the world can learn. But the situation is likely to change, according to this important new study of South American geopolitics by Jack Child. Struggles for balance of power, irredentism, conflict among neighbors, and the practice of realpolitik are all likely to increase in the near future; Latin America will no longer be a region of peace.

Geopolitics in Latin America has not received sufficient attention by scholars. This may be due in part to our natural revulsion toward the subject of war and aggression. Geopolitical thinking may have been discredited because of its association in the interwar years with nazism and fascism. Perhaps we think that geopolitics is an old-fashioned idea. Finally, we may wish to disassociate ourselves from the regimes most closely identified with geopolitics: Pinochet and the Argentine and Brazilian generals. But Child shows how the concept is alive and kicking, and that it will extend beyond the recent period of military rule.

Child focuses on geopolitical thinking and ideology in South America. This thinking stems from both military and civilian elements. He argues that the use of geopolitical thinking and policy on the part of the South American states is due not just to the wave of military regimes that swept to power beginning in the 1960s but also to the decline of United States influence in the 1970s and the perception of the U.S. as a declining power unable to keep the peace.

Child shows the close relations between geopolitical thinking and the military's particular conception of an organic-corporate state. In the case of those regimes and countries where geopolitical thinking has been strongest (Argentina, Brazil, and Chile), the organic-corporate state took a particularly militaristic and Darwinian form. The author has written a fascinating chapter on geopolitics and the national security state in which he shows how the geopolitical national security doctrines require both aggressive actions by these regimes against dissidents within their own population, and competition with other nations for scarce re-