

ties, but not on the rich historical archives of the legislature. The book is much shaped and influenced by the materials used and hence its thrust is decidedly political.

From time to time, Melo presents new perspectives, while much of the book recasts existing views. He argues that the main reason for the failure of Brazil's immigrant policies in the North was the racism of the government elite. This outlook also forced the south-central coffee planters to prefer European *colonos* to Brazilian freedmen (p. 92). After the refineries (*engenhos centrais*) were founded, foreign capitalists speculated on and made profit from the venture; in the process, they set Brazil's sugar industry back two decades in its modernization efforts. When the Pernambucan Prime Minister João Alfredo wanted to correct "the English abuses and Brazilian business greed," it was too late (p. 171).

By adopting uncritically the existing theses, Melo missed opportunities to present balanced new perspectives. On the northern immigration question, he could have expanded on the conservatism of the "sugarocracy" and the economic decay that had been in the offing as deterrents against attracting *colonos*. On the *engenhos centrais* question, he could have looked at what the Bahian planters and merchants did without the participation of foreign capital at the onset of the modernization. He could even have looked into the experiences of Rio province. In other words, there are different and more balanced stories to tell.

Both books offer something unusual yet increasingly popular in historical research. The first gives us access to rare sources such as José Américo, his family, and his friends and foes, all willing to be interviewed. The second book, through Melo's skillful use of parliamentary sources, sheds light on a legislature's thinking, rather than on the executive branch of which historians are generally aware. Both are built using official sources, one written and the other oral. Yet many ideas and plans told by José Américo and revealed in the *anais* were never put in effect, and are therefore not "official." The value of these works lies precisely in this area of the untold and unimplemented side of history that is recounted so vividly by José Américo and hidden in the dusty pages of the *anais*.

University of Alabama,  
Birmingham

EUL-SOO PANG

*Tempos de Capanema*. By SIMON SCHWARTZMAN, HELENA MARIA BOUSQUET BOMENY, and VANDA MARIA RIBEIRO COSTA. Rio de Janeiro: Editora Paz e Terra, 1984. Notes. Illustrations. Bibliography. Pp. 388. Paper.

Simon Schwartzman has emerged as one of the finest writers on twentieth-century Brazilian history. His latest work draws on the Gustavo Capanema papers left to the CPDOC research center in 1978. Correspondence, photos, clippings, and other materials comprise this huge collection.

Capanema, the quintessential Mineiro politician, served as acting governor of his state in 1933 and then as minister of education and culture from 1934 to 1945. An action-oriented intellectual who surrounded himself with like-minded men, Capanema both reflected and helped shape Brazil's intellectual environment of the 1930s and early 1940s. Essentially conservative, traditional, and Catholic, this group kept national educational and cultural policies on the right end of the ideological spectrum. Their style has been termed conservative modernization. Because President Vargas cared little about educational and cultural matters, Capanema and his collaborators enjoyed *carte blanche* powers. They, like their liberal rivals, believed that education would permanently alter the course of Brazilian history by shaping future generations, and they approached their work with a zeal that sometimes bordered on fanaticism. They were right about their impact, though they did not foresee the survival of some and importation of other alternative philosophies in postwar Brazil.

This volume is neither a biography nor a history of Capanema's term as minister; rather, it is a fascinating sampling of his multiple activities as revealed in his correspondence during these years. Schwartzman and his coauthors knit the material together with subtlety, yet allow Capanema and his generation to speak for themselves. Their motives and personal hopes for Brazil take precedence over their actual accomplishments in this treatment. The narrative is followed by about a hundred letters to and from some of the most renowned figures of twentieth-century Brazil. All students of modern Brazil will wish to peruse this book, and intellectual historians will devour it.

University of New Mexico

MICHAEL L. CONNIFF

#### INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS

*Diplomatic Claims: Latin American Historians View the United States.* Edited and Translated by WARREN DEAN et al. New York: University Press of America, 1985. Tables. Notes. Pp. x, 320. Cloth. \$28.00. Paper. \$14.75.

Even at this presumably late date, problems of language sometimes intervene in the transmission of knowledge. The evident need for a common historiography of Latin American–United States relations has stimulated research and investigation at an increasing tempo. Yet the problems of communication must not be minimized. This is particularly true of major Latin American works, which often remain untranslated. The extent to which this handicaps North Americans mirrors,