

lamentably, our enduring discomfort over the use and mastery of non-English materials.

Confronting these circumstances, Warren Dean and members of his graduate class undertook English translations of works selected as representative of original research into issues of hemispheric relations. According to the introduction, efforts were made to provide a varied sampling of Latin American scholarship in the field. Preference was given to works which drew extensively on primary documentation. The ten selections have been excerpted from book chapters and articles which have appeared within the past two decades.

Political and ideological predispositions of the authors are varied. While the content is not necessarily anti-Yankee, it generally reflects the Latin American perspective on North American objectives and motivations. There is uniform recognition of the inordinate power and influence of the United States. As Dean indicates in a brief conclusion, the collective weight of the selections provides a sense of the involuntary Latin American contribution to the U.S. rise to world power since 1900.

Mexican–United States relations are considered by Carlos Bosch García, Berta Ulloa, and Lorenzo Meyer. Roberto Etchepareborda and Horacio Veneroni offer Argentine perspectives on arms races, while the U.S. impact on Cuban agriculture is treated by Manuel Moreno Fragnals and Oscar Zanetti. Leslie Manigat discusses the penetration of Haiti, while Luiz Alberto Moniz Bandeira discusses Vargas and the United States. The Ecuadorean Marxist Manuel Medina Castro provides a fascinating treatment of the most-favored-nation clause as a tool of United States expansionism.

The collection inevitably provides but a minor remedy for the ills which inspired it. Nonetheless, the contents are suggestive of the exceptional talents now addressing these crucial relationships in Latin America.

Pennsylvania State University

JOHN D. MARTZ

Nicaragua's Mosquito Shore: The Years of British and American Presence. By CRAIG L. DOZIER. University, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1985. Map. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 269. Cloth. \$32.75.

The tropical forest zone of eastern Nicaragua constitutes half of the nation's territory; yet, only ten percent of the population lives there. Never "Hispanic" to any great degree, the Mosquito Shore has been more receptive to "Anglo" influences: the British in the colonial centuries and the early national period, and the North Americans who came later to develop such tropical resources as woods, minerals, and bananas. Moreover, the Nicaraguan Shore seemed to include the best route for an isthmian canal, at least until the Panamanian crossing won acceptance. Eastern Nicaragua slipped back into stagnation because of the loss of the

canal project, the diseases that afflicted bananas in the first third of the twentieth century, and other factors of decline. The Somoza dictatorships did little to stem the tide. It was only after the Sandinista victory in 1979 that the Shore once again assumed prominence.

Mosquitia's "external" history is well known thanks to many key studies. Dozier draws heavily, yet selectively, from these references to narrate the major developments of the area's history. A geographer with a flair for history, the author dips back into the extensive British and American documentation on the subject, treating us to valuable insights on tropical society. He utilizes numerous travel accounts and reproduces many photographs and drawings that enhance the presentation. A spirited style of writing makes the story come alive. This is good literature, marred only by inadequate footnote coverage of his references.

Dozier is at his best in telling Mosquitia's "internal" history. We are made aware of its "isolation," the exasperating obstacles to communication, the endemic diseases, the ubiquitous rain, and the filth of the tropics. Dozier's personal pictures of 1957 speak for themselves. He exposes us to excellent analyses of economic activity and entrepreneurship at all levels. After the transit traffic of the mid-nineteenth century, North Americans expanded into the banana industry and other endeavors. A discussion of the presence of North Americans in Nicaragua and their impact on national life and politics, as well as on the government of the United States, add a valuable dimension to the diplomatic story that we already know.

A well-developed theme throughout the book is the anti-"Hispanic" hostility of the Shore's people: the Miskitos, other Indian tribes, and the "creoles" on the coast—mulattoes, blacks, and the like. Most of them speak English or their own language; they are Protestants thanks to the Moravian missionaries of the past century, and they resent bitterly any dictation from the "Hispanics" in the west, on the other side of the mountains. They present an acute security problem for the Sandinistas.

This book is a welcome historical synthesis of an area that is once again in the international spotlight.

University of Southern California

MARIO RODRÍGUEZ

To the Halls of the Montezumas: The Mexican War in the American Imagination.

By ROBERT W. JOHANNSEN. New York: Oxford University Press, 1985. Illustrations. Notes. Index. Pp. ix, 363. Cloth. \$25.00.

True to character, Johannsen has done a full measure of research here, most of it in the widely read books and periodicals of the United States–Mexican War period. His focus is on what the people of the time imagined, but he also includes substantial interpretations of his own. He claims for the war with Mexico the following firsts: [1] the first exposure of large numbers of North Americans to a differ-