

cludes with an explanation of how Paraguay's migratory agricultural structures were shaped by the requirements and opportunities provided by the greater regional economy.

Although this work contains some fascinating contemporary accounts in the appendixes, its extremely narrow subject matter presented in tediously technical jargon reduces its primary value to just what the author claims: it is one piece in a shamefully incomplete historical puzzle. As such, its usefulness is largely limited to those few scholars working to compile other building blocks, so that eventually enough of the historical picture will be reconstructed to write a comprehensive social and economic history.

Council on Hemispheric Affairs  
Washington, DC

RICHARD ALAN WHITE

*Ferrocarriles, conspiraciones, y negocios en el Paraguay, 1910–1914.* By JUAN CARLOS HERKEN KRAUER. Asunción: Arte Nuevo Editores, 1984. Notes. Bibliography. Documentary appendix. Photographs. Maps. Pp. 147. Paper.

Between 1910 and 1912, Paraguay experienced an era of extreme political violence. Historians have assumed that instability was merely part of the process of the Liberal party's consolidation of power after their victorious 1904 revolution which displaced the Colorados. Any outside involvement in that turmoil was just a result of the traditional Brazilian-Argentine rivalry for influence in Asunción. Juan Carlos Herken offers a persuasive alternate interpretation. He posits economic-political machinations of a powerful North American financier whose dream of a South American transcontinental railroad network had great political and economic impact on Paraguay.

Percival Farquhar had already constructed an extensive railroad and utility empire in Brazil. Starting around 1908 through his Brazilian companies, French banking support, and the assistance of his associate, Manuel Rodríguez, an important Argentine politician and promoter, Farquhar moved to gain political influence in Asunción. His goal was government concessions by which the construction of a railroad through Paraguay, connecting with projected Brazilian lines, would be facilitated. Rodríguez distributed bribes to politicians, manipulated factions within the Liberal party and finally, through financial support of the Radical faction that led a successful revolt in 1912, obtained a government friendly to Farquhar's enterprise. All this, of course, was effected at great cost to internal political peace.

On the verge of success, economic difficulties in Brazil and caution in European money markets before World War I caused the collapse of Farquhar's transcontinental dream. No line from Brazil was ever constructed; however, the economic impact on Paraguay in this era of frenzied speculation was considerable. Subsidiary investments in various companies had brought capital into the nation

in anticipation of a railroad boom. Land values doubled, and the pastoral industry received an impetus which served it well during the wartime demand for cattle products. A similar expansion occurred in the yerba mate and timber industries. At the same time, the contrived rise of the Radicals had a profound impact on the Paraguayan political scene.

An unavoidable problem of this work is the lack of conclusive evidence tying Farquhar directly to the ruthless manipulation of Paraguayan politics. Perhaps solid evidence of an organized financial-political conspiracy would be difficult to discover in any case; Farquhar was a careful man. Still, by use of available business records, Public Record Office correspondence, secondary sources, and official government papers, the author presents a convincing argument. This work is well written, well illustrated, and contains in its appendix an important debate of the Paraguayan Congress on the railroad issue. Regardless of any qualifications about documentation, Herken's study cannot be ignored. It is recommended to those interested in Paraguay's economic and political history, as well as to business historians of the Río de la Plata.

University of Louisville

JERRY W. COONEY

*Tempo e sociedade.* By JOSÉ HONÓRIO RODRIGUES. Petrópolis, Brazil: Editora Vozes, 1986. Notes. Pp. 221. Paper.

This slim volume provides a good sampling of the work and thought of one of Brazil's major historians. Included are scholarly essays, newspaper articles, interviews, and debates.

For the late José Honório Rodrigues, "history is always contemporary, always present" (p. 144). It differs from the social sciences in that its perspective is "long term" (p. 19). To grasp long-term causality, the historian must study the present as well as the past. Proficiency in the art of history—which is "to reveal the dignity and the values of human life" (p. 39)—requires observation of the current scene, for "contemporaries are the only people [the historian] can capture alive" (p. 97). And they are the beneficiaries: history must be written "to serve the present and the living" (p. 43). In short, it must have a social purpose.

"I have never been a Marxist," Rodrigues declares. "My political and ideological position is absolutely antidictatorial, democratic, liberal—from the political, social, and economic standpoint" (p. 143). He served the cause of liberal democracy in Brazil not as a political activist, but as a historian, archivist, and writer. As director of the Brazilian National Archives (1958–64) he fought to open government records to researchers. The military coup of 1964 cost him his job, as the new rulers exhibited the usual—for "totalitarians, left or right" (p. 105)—phobia of freedom of information. Earlier, as a civilian participant in conferences at the Brazilian Superior War College (ESG), he had become frighteningly familiar with