

Salvadoran FMLN and the Sandinistas. Here the lesson of the Vietcong sanctuaries in Cambodia and Laos has been directly applied to Central America. In the case of Nicaragua, Bermúdez concludes that Reagan's policy is clearly designed to test the viability of his "rollback" initiative, which seeks the overthrow of not just the Sandinistas but the Marxist regimes in Angola, Mozambique, Cambodia, and Afghanistan. Bermúdez sees the Reagan policy in Central America floundering on all fronts, largely because of its inability to gain the necessary political support in the U.S. Congress and the Central American nations themselves. General Manuel Noriega's nose thumbing at Washington underscores this book's increasingly evident conclusion.

Although this is a work of broad perspective, Bermúdez fails to properly place Reagan's Central American policy in the context of his overall relations with Latin America. While this is a significant flaw, it does not fundamentally detract from what is unquestionably a most important and provocative study.

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Haiti's Influence on Antebellum America. Slumbering Volcano in the Caribbean.

By ALFRED N. HUNT. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1988. Notes. Photographs. Index. Pp. xiv, 196. Cloth. \$25.00.

The subtitle, *Slumbering Volcano*, refers to the successful slave revolution in Saint-Domingue. It served as a symbol onto which antebellum Americans projected their acute sense of the potential of insurrection and race war inherent in slavery. Alfred Hunt juxtaposes manipulation of this symbol by white southerners and northern abolitionists, the former to defend slavery as necessary to contain the ever-present potential for violence, the latter to condemn slavery as the source of an inevitable bloody retribution if allowed to continue. Among abolitionists, reactions ranged from that of advocates of colonization, who accepted in effect the premise that emancipation without removal of blacks meant race war, to black nationalists for whom Haiti furnished a model of revolutionary action. Similarly, Hunt contrasts the various ways U.S. observers stereotyped Toussaint Louverture and the nation of Haiti that emerged from the revolution.

A secondary theme is the impact of Saint-Domingue refugees on the U.S. South. Largely on the basis of their influence on creole society in Louisiana, Hunt adopts the perspective that the lower South was the northern extremity of Caribbean culture. This theme clashes with the failure of schemes to promote emigration of U.S. blacks to the "alien environment" of Haiti (p. 181). As for the refugees, recognition of their social and racial heterogeneity does not prevent Hunt from characterizing them as the "dominant force in the French-speaking community" of New Orleans (p. 83), a generalization that slights natives of Louisiana and does not even take into account the European French. Nowhere does

he cite Gabriel Debien, the author of major studies on Saint-Domingue refugees in Jamaica, Cuba, and Louisiana. The time invested in searching out allusions to Haiti over the antebellum period does not appear to be matched by comparable attention to secondary and primary sources on Haitian history and the refugee movements.

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Política y diplomacia en la Argentina: Las relaciones con EE. UU. y la URSS. By MARIO RAPOPORT. Buenos Aires: Instituto Torcuato Di Tella, 1986. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 141. Paper.

The two brief, but richly documented, essays that comprise this book provide an excellent overview of Argentina's relations with the U.S. and U.S.S.R. during the first half of the twentieth century. Skillfully overlapping Argentine, British, and U.S. diplomatic records, interview data, memoirs, periodical literature of the period, and a wealth of secondary sources in a variety of languages, the essays address the different factors that shaped Argentine relations with the emerging superpowers, particularly the evolving interplay between internal and external conditions and actors in determining the tenor of relations throughout this period. In chapter 1, an award-winning essay published in English in *HAHR* in 1986, Rapoport explores Argentine-Soviet relations from 1917 to 1955. He concentrates on how dynamics within the Soviet leadership, the Argentine Communist party, and the Argentine political elite influenced the course of diplomatic and commercial ties between the two nations. He emphasizes the impact of World War II, of shifting Soviet international perspectives before and after the war, and of U.S. global preoccupations on key actors' behavior, and the overall nature of the relationships. He contrasts the recurrent Soviet interest in exploring commercial links to Argentina with the ideological vacillations exhibited by the Soviet leadership, the Argentine Communist party, and the international communist movement in general when addressing the Argentine governments, especially the emerging figure of Juan Perón. This is posed against the tactical and strategic perspectives adopted by different members of the Argentine political elite and the U.S. government which influenced the Argentine approach toward the U.S.S.R. Rapoport's judicious use of sources illuminates the conjunctural factors that influenced the behavior of these actors, and highlights the contradictions and disparities between the public posturing and private positioning of each over the course of time.

The second chapter, an equally well-crafted study of the relations of Argentine political elites with the U.S. government and its factions, traces the uneasy nature of these relations during the years before, during, and after World War II, particularly focusing on Argentina's relationship with the Axis powers and the U.S.S.R. and its eventual incorporation into the United Nations. Here again, Rapoport