ology" (p. 333). A further point: Rouquié, in writing about what he conceives to be the U.S. influence in Latin America, endorses a view that was popular a quarter of a century ago, but now is outdated. There are too many examples of Latin American armed forces going to the Soviet Union, Israel, and France for equipment, contrary to the wishes of the United States, to claim much Pentagon influence other than in some of the Central American/Caribbean nations. (4) The author is unclear on "the concept of middle class(es)," which he asserts "is too vague to aid our understanding" (p. 89), but he then proceeds to use the term, or its equivalents, throughout the volume in discussing the background of officers and their civilian clienteles. (5) The author failed to explain how his analysis of developments in Latin America led him to present a basically pessimistic future for the area in the text and an essentially optimistic one in the epilogue (written only a half decade later). At this point, the reader should be warned that what I see as faults in the volume may be exaggerated because of the fact that the author, to me, seemed at pains to make his work appear more original than it really is. After 30 years of research and writing on the Latin American armed forces by a relatively large number of respected scholars, the main areas have been pretty well identified. But as Rouquié has shown, there do remain, as the saying goes, "different ways to make a pudding."

To conclude, this is a thoughtful and readable book. It will better serve the interests of the lay person and the undergraduate than the needs of the serious scholar of military/state relations, irrespective of disciplinary orientation. In all truth, the volume does not push back the frontiers of knowledge very far.

Stanford University JOHN J. JOHNSON

The Political Economy of Central America Since 1920. By VICTOR BULMER-THOMAS. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987. Acronyms. Tables. Map. Graphs. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Indexes. Pp. xxii, 414. Paper.

This book is a welcome addition to the burgeoning literature on Central America. In the preface, the author states the book's ambitious purpose: "to examine the nature of economic development in Central America and to resolve the confusion over the part played by economic factors in the current crisis" (p. xiii). Even with this strongly presentist orientation, however, pre-World War II decades, like the postwar years, are analyzed in extensive, solidly documented chapters with suggestive interpretations.

The book is an invaluable compilation of economic data, much of which the author has pieced together from primary sources. Perhaps more impressive, however, is the author's success in analytically integrating aspects of historical change that too often are kept separate or treated in a misleading framework of linear causality. One important example is the relationships between external influences

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(e.g., export markets and U.S. foreign policy) and internal economic structures. A second example, closely related to the first, is the "political economy" of the title: the relationships among national economic structures, configurations of domestic power, and policy patterns.

While there are lapses, especially notable wherever the author personifies the nation (i.e., in such formulations as "Nation X benefited from the rise in coffee prices"), Bulmer-Thomas generally does very well in sustaining this complex analysis while avoiding confusion, obscurity, and crude reductionism. It is this analytical achievement that enables the book to identify clearly and productively similarities and divergences among the five nations' historical processes.

While it is doubtful that Bulmer-Thomas has fully succeeded in his effort "to resolve the confusion over the part played by economic factors in the current crisis," there is no question that his book makes an important contribution towards that goal. As such, I recommend it for all interested in twentieth-century Central American history, including advanced undergraduate and graduate students.

Hampshire College FREDERICK STIRTON WEAVER

The Emergence of Latin America in the Nineteenth Century. By DAVID BUSHNELL and NEILL MACAULAY. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. Map. Illustrations. Notes. Appendixes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 335. Paper.

David Bushnell and Neill Macaulay have written a masterful synthesis on nineteenth-century Latin America. It is provocative, lucid, and well organized. Undergraduates will appreciate the authors' ironic humor and efforts to connect the nineteenth century with the present. Graduate students will use it as a beacon to guide them through the maze of this confusing era.

The text has two major strengths. The authors deftly attain the always difficult balance between narrative and analysis by alternating synthetic overviews with studies of individual nations or groups of nations (such as Andean and Platine): the overview of politics in chapter 2 is a model essay. In addition, they employ a comparative approach to better elucidate the histories of individual countries. The comparison of the Liberal era in Mexico and Colombia, and then Argentina and Chile, provides the clearest interpretation of this period to date.

To their credit, Bushnell and Macaulay are not afraid to stir up controversy. They discount the power of informal imperialism and reject dependency as a framework (pp. 43–45), point out the difficulties of "class analysis" (pp. 51–54), and assert that "even boredom at times can be revolutionary" (p. 188).

The discussion of Latin American economies is strongest when it explains the obstacles to development in the first half of the century. The analysis is muddied somewhat when it deals with the transition period after 1850 when exporting to the world market emerged preeminent. The authors sharply contest the validity of

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