

peared. Most of its adherents switched to the rising Christian Democratic Party, while a few migrated to the traditional right-wing organizations (united in the 1960s in the National party).

Despite its trivial size and impact, the Partido Agrario Laborista deserves some attention because it exhibited important continuing strains in Chilean politics. It is noteworthy for spawning politicians of enduring national significance, such as Sergio Onofre Jarpa, Alejandro Hales, and Julio von Mühlenbrock. It also echoed significant themes. The PAL represented regional resentments against the domination of the central zone, agricultural complaints against government favoritism for the cities and manufacturing, and middle-class hostility against political horse trading, shenanigans, and corruption (all denounced as *politiquería*) by mainstream political parties. Although it was a centrist party, some of the PAL's ideas resurfaced in the authoritarian regime of Augusto Pinochet Ugarte; notably the disdain for petty politics, the praise for corporatist models, the desire to shrink the state, the effort to decentralize administration, the glorification of rightist nationalism, and the abhorrence of communism. Garay helps us trace the roots of these refrains.

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*"Paz, Progreso, Justicia, y Honradez": Das Ubico-Regime in Guatemala, 1931–1944.* By STEFAN KARLEN. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1991. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xv, 580 pp. Paper.

Ideally, a biography should illuminate its subject and the society in which he or she lives. There are two major biographies of Jorge Ubico, Guatemala's dictator from 1931 to 1944. One, by Joseph Pitti, ends with Ubico's inauguration in 1931 ("Jorge Ubico and Guatemalan Politics in the 1920s," Ph.D. dissertation, University of New Mexico, 1975). It is magisterial; it illuminates 20 years of Guatemalan history. The second, by Kenneth Grieb (*Guatemalan Caudillo: The Regime of Jorge Ubico*, 1979), covers the Ubico era. It is a thoroughly competent book, though not as impressive as Pitti's volume in either its description or its interpretation of Guatemalan society. There is, therefore, room for a new biography.

In this massive and lavishly illustrated new study of Ubico, Stefan Karlen states that he intends to improve on Pitti and Grieb. He fails. He offers far more details than Grieb—a veritable avalanche of details—and he delivers them all, relentlessly. He adds many more trees, but the sky is lost. If he believes in the old adage that scholarship must be boring, then he has succeeded. This is a very boring book.

Karlen uses no new sources. He relies on U.S. archives and, to a lesser extent, the Guatemalan press. He barely touches the Guatemalan archives, a failing that

he justifies by pointing to their poorly organized state. I can sympathize, but only to a limited extent, because even my passing acquaintance with those archives for the Ubico years has shown me that it is possible to get new material from them. Karlen is right: there is room for a new biography of Ubico. But this is not it.

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*Perú visto por L.A.S.: historia y vida política.* By DONALD C. HENDERSON. Lima: Editorial Pachacútec, 1990. Index. xx, 312 pp. Paper.

This book is a collection of 84 newspaper articles and essays published primarily during the 1960s and 1970s by Dr. Luis Alberto Sánchez, eminent Peruvian polemicist, literary critic, and standard-bearer of the APRA party. As the book's title indicates, the purpose of this volume is to provide *una vista lasiana* of Peruvian "history and political life" from the colonial era to 1980 (p. xi). The texts selected by editor Donald Henderson clearly reflect Dr. Sánchez' abiding interest in Peru's historical struggle to establish a democratic society and to overcome economic dependence. Within the context of these two overarching themes, Dr. Sánchez addresses a broad range of historical issues: the origins of chronic political instability and military dictatorship in Peru, the relationship between the oligarchy and the military, the impact of tariff policies, the role of intellectuals and the press in politics, and APRA's promotion of democracy and social reform. These subjects and others are examined primarily in relation to twentieth-century Peruvian politics.

Like most of Dr. Sánchez' writings on historical topics, these texts are more anecdotal commentaries than formal historical analyses. Undoubtedly, historians will find many insightful observations mixed in among the exceptionally witty and humorous passages. This work, however, presents several difficulties for historians of Peru, and particularly for nonspecialists. Without the benefit of editorial notes, the myriad references to historical personalities and events are likely to confuse most readers. Another problem is Dr. Sánchez' tendency to project present-day political sensibilities onto the past. In fact, many of the essays are historical allegories containing explicit or implicit criticisms of the military regime of Juan Velasco Alvarado, which governed Peru at the time of most of these writings.

Dr. Sánchez' viewpoint, as expressed in these writings, conforms largely to the official APRA version of Peruvian political history. Despite claims to the contrary (p. ix), Dr. Sánchez' political bias profoundly influences his interpretations. In fact, APRA is repeatedly characterized as the single organized progressive force in Peruvian politics. Students interested in making a comprehensive assessment of Dr. Sánchez' interpretation of Peruvian political history ought to consult his *Testimonio personal* and *Apuntes para una bibliografía del Apra*. In addition, Dr. Sánchez' correspondence, previously published by Donald Henderson in an