And Jorge Carrillo V. discusses the expansion of higher-technology, higher-paying jobs in the maquiladora sector. He describes an exceptionally active CTM branch in Tamaulipas, where local union leaders have won higher wages in the new electronics and automotive plants. Unfortunately, and perhaps inevitably, however, the gloom overshadows the few rays of hope in this well-done volume.

JOHN A. BRITTON, Francis Marion College


Jorge Pérez-López notes that there is "no current, comprehensive study of the economics of Cuban sugar" (p. xiv). His objective is to fill this gap with a survey and an exploration of sugar's changing influence on the Cuban economy over the revolutionary period. He does provide a comprehensive survey of the literature on Cuban sugar. He is less successful, however, in producing an original analysis of sugar's role in the economy.

The overview ranges from the organization of production to international sugar agreements throughout the twentieth century. In his survey, Pérez-López carefully points out contradictions in the evidence on certain questions, an important service in the highly polemized field of Cuban studies. It is somewhat disappointing, however, that Pérez-López has done little original analysis of the extensive information he has collected. The questions that receive most of his attention have already been widely addressed in the literature—the size of the Soviet sugar subsidy and the weight of sugar in the Cuban economy and exports. These questions have not been decisively resolved due to methodological debates, and here the book contributes little.

On the size of Soviet subsidies, for example, the author demonstrates that many estimates are inflated by comparing Soviet sugar prices to world market prices, whereas most sugar is sold above world prices under preferential agreements. He also notes the need to discount for Cuba's required purchases of poor-quality Soviet products at inflated prices. Pérez-López himself estimates the subsidy under a variety of alternative prices, something that others have also attempted; but he makes no effort to discount for tied purchases.

Perhaps the book's most important contribution is found in the chapters that cover energy and transport, refined sugar and derivatives, and production costs. Here Pérez-López examines factors that have received less attention in the literature. This information will aid in measuring the efficiency of sugar exports as a foreign exchange–earning strategy, a question central to evaluating Cuba's sugar-led development program. Much of the analysis, however, remains to be done.

MIEKE MEURS, American University