

the dependency of individual slaves was transmuted into that of entire societies, effectively providing a bridge from colonial slavery to imperialism and, in the twentieth century, to neocolonialism under the auspices of “multinational capital” (p. 317).

Holt takes the story up to the labor revolt of 1938 and the initial stirring of decolonization sentiment. As they had a century before, he notes, the Jamaican masses insisted that “political and economic freedoms did not function in separable domains” (p. 397).

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International

Les révolutions d'Amérique latine. By PIERRE VAYSSIÈRE. Paris: Editions du Seuil, 1991. Chronology. Notes. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. 409 pp. Paper.

Pierre Vayssière, a specialist in Latin American history, is now professor of contemporary history at the University of Toulouse; he taught previously in Santiago and Paris. Viewing Latin America as a world in permanent revolution, in this book he traces its diverse revolutionary experiences, defining minimally a revolutionary act as an attempt, successful or abortive, to overturn established power. He divides his book in two parts. Part one, the traditional revolutions, 1810–1950, treats the wars for independence, struggles over caudillismo and dictatorship, Mexico's 1910 revolution, and early twentieth-century popular and student revolts and military uprisings. Vayssière notes each action's profound effect on popular psychology, producing more or less enduring trauma in national identities. The revolutionary becomes the sorcerer's apprentice for change, whether desiring to impel history forward or to deflect its course. “The militant is a fanatic who believes in the strength of his ideas, his slogans, and his arms. . . . revolutionary violence appears then as a sacrificial rite, a purifying catharsis” (pp. 17–18).

Part 2 considers the Marxist revolutions, 1953–1990, and their prolongations: Castro's Cuban Revolution, attempts to block its exportation (1960–1990), and military revolts and counterrevolutions in those years. Separate chapters study Nicaragua's aborted revolution; Christian, chiefly Roman Catholic, reactions to the modern situation; and revolution as a cultural fact. Revolutionaries' appeals to Indian heritages and historical developments lead to Vayssière's conclusion, “The Revolution Betwixt Myth and Utopia.” His well-documented hypothesis is sustained: “All revolutionary action is the cultural expression of a violence, more or less profoundly rooted in a tradition” (p. 327).

Comprehensive French, English, Portuguese, and Spanish sources and informative notes demonstrate Vayssière's broad, syncretic research. Backmatter includes a chronology; a Spanish-Portuguese glossary; and indexes of authors cited, historic personages, themes, and place names. Occasional indexing lapses produce

unwarranted results; for example, Ecuador's dictator Gabriel García Moreno and Mexico's economist Jesús Silva Herzog appear under their matronymics, Moreno and Herzog, falsely implying illegitimacy.

Vayssière's synthesis of this polyglot literature on contemporary politico-military history, integrated with developments in art and literature, gives specialists new, thoughtful insights. General readers will need to research further unfamiliar persons and events.

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Guerrillas and Revolution in Latin America: A Comparative Study of Insurgents and Regimes Since 1956. By TIMOTHY P. WICKHAM-CROWLEY. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992. Tables. Notes. Appendixes. Bibliography. Index. xx, 424 pp. Cloth. \$59.50.

Latin America in the Era of the Cuban Revolution. By THOMAS C. WRIGHT. New York: Praeger, 1991. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xiv, 256 pp. Paper. \$15.95.

It is difficult to overestimate the influence of Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, and the Cuban Revolution in Latin American politics and U.S.–Latin American relations since 1959. The Cuban Revolution inspired two generations of Latin American revolutionaries, spawned guerrilla movements across the hemisphere, and dominated inter-American relations into the late 1980s. These two very different books, by a historian and a sociologist, acknowledge in their own ways this pervasive impact.

Wright's book is an excellent synthesis of the literature on the Cuban Revolution, its impact on Latin America, and the U.S. policy responses from 1959 to 1990. He includes a chapter on rural guerrilla warfare, one on urban guerrillas, and two chapters detailing the Peruvian (1968–1980) and Chilean (1970–1973) variants on nationalist reformism, always with the relationship between these cases and the larger inter-American scenario in mind. He then surveys the “antirevolutionary military regimes” (chapter 9) and the Nicaraguan Revolution, ending with the defeat of the Sandinistas in the 1990 elections.

This book is easy to read, an ideal textbook for survey courses on modern Latin American history, politics, and inter-American relations. The conclusion, that the decline of Cuban influence “resulted in part from the secular tarnishing of the luster of revolution” (p. 199), is accurate; but as Wright indicates, the “tarnishing” was not only the result of a natural loss of luster: “By 1990 the spirit of revolution, which had swept strongly over Latin America in the 1960s, had been brutally extinguished” (p. 200).

Revolutionaries and their supporters paid a high price in blood, torture, imprisonment, and exile. The military and civil-military regimes of the 1960s and 1970s in Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador,