

ments of a soap opera, the expected composition of the audience, the composition and commitment of the production team, the artistic and technical vision of the producer, the script-development process, and the need for effective epilogues.

How effective were the six programs? According to data assembled by Televisa's research department, the positive commercial, behavioral, and macrosocial effects of entertainment-educational soap operas can be demonstrated and are considerable. These programs can compete with traditional soaps, and in the same time slots. The audience perceives the incorporated reformist information, and many viewers positively alter their behavior.

Latin American serial television fiction has begun to receive serious scholarly attention. Nariman's volume is a useful addition to this emerging literature and the first in-depth look at entertainment-education soap operas. It will also provide a handy guide for many television producers in the Third World who have heard of Sabido's theories and opus and who may well wish to emulate him.

HAROLD E. HINDS, University of Minnesota, Morris

Changing Tropical Forests: Historical Perspectives on Today's Challenges in Central and South America. Edited by HAROLD K. STEEN and RICHARD P. TUCKER. Proceedings of a Conference Sponsored by the Forest History Society and IUFRO Forest History Group. Durham: Forest History Society, 1992. Maps. Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliographies. viii, 303 pp. Cloth, \$29.95. Paper, \$14.95.

Tropical Rainforests: Latin American Nature and Society in Transition. Edited by SUSAN E. PLACE. Wilmington: Jaguar Books, 1993. Notes. Bibliography. xxi, 229 pp. Cloth, \$40.00. Paper, \$14.95.

These two recently edited volumes focus on historical changes in the tropical forests of the New World. Both are useful, but for different audiences. The volume edited by Susan Place is part of a series of core texts for undergraduate courses in Latin American studies and history. It consists of 30 short selections from already published works, each introduced by a brief critical note. The collection by Harold Steen and Richard Tucker is a conference proceeding that presents a series of original research papers of uneven scope and quality.

Part 1 of Place's book presents a variety of "Perceptions of the Rainforest," including excerpts from the writings of novelists, naturalists, and anthropologists. The selections in part 2 ("Explanations for Deforestation in Latin America") describe some of the economic and political forces behind tropical deforestation, including population pressures, cattle ranching, oil drilling, industrialization, and U.S. foreign policy. In part 3 ("Why Save the Rainforests?") the articles discuss the impact of deforestation and arguments for reversing the loss of tropical forests. Part 4 ("Prospects for Development: Alternative Futures for the Rainforest") reviews viable areas, extractive reserves, debt-for-nature swaps, and ecotourism. A

final section suggests further study with an annotated list of 19 books, 9 films, and 7 popular-scientific journals. All the readings in this volume are well selected and edited, and the whole collection provides up-to-date review of the complexity of deforestation in the Latin American region.

The volume edited by Steen and Tucker presents 23 research papers divided into sections on keynote addresses, Central America, Mexico, Brazil and Amazonia, and timber extraction and forestry since colonial times. Steen's cursory introduction explains that the conference was sponsored by the Forest History Group of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO). The common theme of ecosystem change in the tropics ties together articles ranging from general overviews to highly technical papers on, for example, the long-term effects of sheep grazing in semiarid regions or the role of microfossils in historical analysis. Some engaging essays appear, such as Warren Dean's strong plea for the incorporation of environmentalist arguments into Latin American history and Murdo McLeod's critical review of Amerindian and Spanish resource use from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Nuanced discussions of traditional resource management are presented in Rhena Hoffman's article on Mexico and in William Balée and Leslie Sponsel's chapter on Amazonia. The articles generally are well written, and many provide useful case studies for specific regions or countries.

Available at an accessible price in paperback, these two books are both useful for classroom adoption in courses in anthropology, history, ecology, or Latin American studies.

MARIANNE SCHMINK, University of Florida

Politics and Social Change in Latin America: Still a Distinct Tradition? Edited by HOWARD J. WIARDA. 3d Edition. Boulder: Westview Press, 1992. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. xiv, 354 pp. Cloth, \$66.00. Paper, \$19.95.

The 16 essays comprising the expanded third edition of this familiar reader advance the thesis that anyone hoping to fathom Latin America must approach it through study of the region's unique cultural heritage, a heritage bequeathed by Iberian conquistadores bearing the attitudes and values of late medieval Roman Catholic Europe. Chief among the determinants of Latin America's distinct tradition, argue Howard Wiarda and several of his fellow essayists, is the Latin American people's inclination toward sociopolitical arrangements that are hierarchical, corporative, and centrist in character.

Six of the scholars whose essays appear here figure among the foremost proponents of what is often termed the "cultural" interpretation of Latin American civilization. In addition to Wiarda (three essays), they include Richard Morse and Glen Dealy (two essays each), Claudio Veliz, Fredrick Pike, and Charles Anderson. The engaged quality of their writing is suggested in Wiarda's question, posed