

practice, guerrilla warfare in the 1980s, and the trade union struggle. They tell us that the Left functions but is fractured in Chile, where it is partially thwarted by the power of the military. In Peru, the failure of military reformists, ineffective politics, and frustration have led to the ascendancy of Sendero Luminoso, while the rest of the nation's Left is united and willing to pursue electoral politics. In Colombia, known for decades for its violence, the Left has increasingly sought peaceful resolutions of problems. The Left made enormous gains in Mexico's 1988 presidential election, but since then the PRI has prevented its consolidation. Simultaneously, Mexico's Soviet-oriented Communist party has abandoned the idea of moving the PRI leftward. Mexico's radicals are divided over strategy, and they disagree about the NAFTA proposals. Some radicals claim that El Salvador's Left triumphed by getting to the negotiating table; others believe that it capitulated. Chapters on Bolivia, Brazil, Venezuela, and Argentina provide fine analytical histories of the Left.

In his overview of the contemporary scene, Ronald Chilcote notes that some scholars believe that liberation theology has weakened Marxist class analysis, the dependency perspective, and revolutionary change by assimilating these tendencies. He points out that in the future the concept of the vanguard might pertain not to a single party but to multiple parties. This clearly written volume contains a great deal more material of value. Analytically it is considerably more sophisticated than standard works in the field. Every research library should own a copy.

SHELDON B. LISS, University of Akron

Respuestas silenciosas: proletarianización urbana y reproducción de la fuerza de trabajo en América Latina. By JUAN PABLO PÉREZ SAINZ. Caracas: Editorial Nueva Sociedad, 1989. Tables. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Index. 128 pp. Paper.

This study attempts to analyze the issue of urban proletarianization in several distinct contexts: the productive process and the urban labor market, the reproduction of the labor market, and the urban setting. One of the author's principal arguments is the heterogeneity of the productive process and the precariousness of the "proletarianization" process. In this regard, he emphasizes, both the salaried and the nonsalaried (self-employed) are subsumed in the process of extended capitalist production.

Juan Pablo Pérez Sainz thereby challenges the distinction between the formal and the informal economy, emphasizing the interrelations between the two and the role of each in shifting the burden of reproduction to the household (what he refers to as "the logic of subsistence"). The heterogeneity of the informal labor force—its inclusion of salaried day laborers and street vendors, for example—precludes any facile assimilation of informality with "entrepreneurship" and entry into the productive economy.

By examining the multiple dimensions of this expanding notion of proletarianization, the author emphasizes the importance of consumerist and cultural values in explaining behavior rather than deriving the explanation from the productive base. As an empirical study and conceptual debate on proletarianization, this book is useful. Yet the larger contextual issues, the imposition of neoliberal policies on most Latin societies and their impact on structures of employment and behavior, are not systematically analyzed. Also absent is a discussion of the ascendancy of free-market ideology and the shift in intellectual paradigms that has shaped the political aspirations and choices of the popular classes. The question arises whether the behavioral patterns observed here have emerged from internal structures of the “proletarians,” have resulted from “exogenous” forces (the World Bank, the IMF, the export elites), or represent some combination of forces, internal and external, that awaits further elaboration.

JAMES PETRAS, State University of New York, Binghamton

Out of the Shadows: Women, Resistance, and Politics in South America. By JO FISHER. New York: Monthly Review Press/Latin America Bureau, 1993. Bibliography. Index. 228 pp. Paper. \$15.00.

In *Out of the Shadows*, Jo Fisher has woven together inspiring stories of women who united in grassroots movements to defy military rule in the Southern Cone countries of Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Quoting extensively from the interviews on which the book is based, Fisher lets these women tell their own vivid, moving stories of how the military regimes' economic and political policies pushed them out of their traditional domestic roles and into the public arena, and how their experiences in becoming political activists gradually but profoundly changed their consciousness as women.

Through numerous case studies, this book demonstrates the creative and various ways that women of different classes and ethnic backgrounds have responded to poverty and repression since the 1970s. In the shantytowns of Chile, women coped with widespread unemployment and immiseration by forming communal kitchens, shopping collectives, child-care centers, skill workshops, and health campaigns. Uruguayan women, forced into paid employment in unprecedented numbers, established a Women's Commission within Uruguay's national trade union confederation and succeeded in introducing issues such as equal pay, child care, and health education into union policy. In Paraguay, the establishment of the Peasant Women's Commission not only confirmed women's importance as participants in land struggles, but provided them with a means to begin to break out of their traditional isolation. Argentina's Mothers and Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo challenged military rule and redefined the role of motherhood as they organized first to demand information about their “disappeared” children, and then to condemn the military's human rights abuses.