

suffer the disdainful incomprehension of outsiders, and he explains Latin American poverty through reference to centuries of colonial misrule and vast geographic barriers impeding economic development. The author criticizes British ignorance of markets and cites the very real inadequacy of commercial infrastructure, such as port facilities and financial institutions. On the other hand, his interpretation has not been influenced by the notion of economic dependency, nor is it impelled by any particular interest in such analytical categories as class, gender, or race—matters the travelers themselves hardly neglected. This suggests the real weakness of the book. Without an analytical compass of some sort, intellectual travelers do tend to wander; and the chapters of *Brute New World* likewise lack a meaningful itinerary. Instead, readers are at the mercy of the guide's idiosyncratic enthusiasms (for meticulous descriptions of the colorful uniforms worn by British mercenaries, for example)—which really will not do when the tour is sponsored by an academic press.

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*Democratic Culture and Governance: Latin America on the Threshold of the Third Millennium.* Edited by LUIS ALBALA-BERTRAND. Gaithersburg: UNESCO/Hispanérica, 1992. Graphs. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. 159 pp. Paper. \$12.00.

*Social Democracy in Latin America: Prospects for Change.* Edited by MENNO VELLINGA. Boulder: Westview Press, 1993. Notes. Index. x, 327 pp. Cloth. \$39.95.

*Democratic Culture and Governance* is a collection of essays by prominent Latin American social scientists whom UNESCO brought together to discuss issues of democracy at a conference held in Montevideo in 1990. The organization of this conference in Latin America was a recognition of the region's significance in the debate about the theory and practice of democratization and democratic governance. The contributors include Manuel A. Garretón, François Bourricaud, Torcuato Di Tella, Norbert Lechner, Michel Maffesoli, Helio Jaguaribe, Mario Dos Santos, Osvaldo Sunkel, Ariel Davrieux, Enrique Leff, Dante Caputo, Jorge Sabato, Raúl Bernal-Meza, and Luis Albala-Bertrand.

The articles by these prominent Latin Americanists address three main topics: transition processes; economic conditions and the dilemmas of democratic governance; and democratization in the context of international restructuring. The collection conveys a sense of some of the most troubling issues affecting democracy in Latin America, and particularly how prominent social scientists view these problems. The articles, however, lack depth. They are short pieces that look more like conference commentaries than carefully thought out scholarly articles. In this sense, the book is useful as a documentation of the relevant issues discussed at the Montevideo conference, but not as a long-lasting academic contribution to the understanding of democratization processes in Latin America.

*Social Democracy in Latin America* should be welcomed by students of both

comparative politics and social democracy. Outstanding social scientists from Latin America and Europe provide informative and insightful analyses of the relationship between European and Latin American social democracy. The essays fall into either of two categories: analysis of the social democratic experience in Europe and its relevance for Latin America; or the concrete experiences, possibilities, and limitations of social democracy in Latin America. The contributors to the book are Tilman Evers, Kenneth Hermele, Paul Cammack, Manuel Alcántara Sáez, Pablo González Casanova, Marcelo Cavarozzi, Alex Fernández Jilberto, Luis Gómez Calcaño, Julio Cotler, Agustín Cueva, Jaime Tamayo, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and Alain Touraine.

The articles by Evers, Hermele, Cammack, and Alcántara Sáez address two main topics: the social democratic experience in Germany, Sweden, England, and Spain; and the nature of the relationship between the respective European social democratic governments and parties and their Latin American counterparts. A major theme is whether economic or political motivations accounted for European social democrats' increasing interest in Latin America. The chapters concentrating on Latin America address general themes, such as the Left in South America as treated by Cavarozzi; or country studies, including Chile, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Central America, and Mexico.

The two final chapters raise some of the hard questions about the challenges of social democracy in Latin America. Cardoso examines the tension between the roles of the market and the state in the allocation of resources and the redistribution of income. In Latin America, under the present conditions of external debt and inflation, the trend has been to privatize. But while privatization in great proportion is, according to Cardoso, unacceptable, social democrats must carefully evaluate how Latin American economies can open up. The final essay, by Touraine, discusses social democracy as a political project, the various meanings social democracy has received in Latin America, and the possible ways out of the present situation, at a time when room for positive solutions is narrow. Overall, the essays provide a rich depth of information and a critical outlook on the social democratic experiences in Europe and Latin America.

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*Modern Latin American Revolutions.* By ERIC SELBIN. Boulder: Westview Press, 1993. Notes. Bibliography. Index. viii, 244 pp. Cloth, \$49.50. Paper, \$16.95.

In *Modern Latin American Revolutions*, Eric Selbin asks why some revolutions succeed while others fail. His answer: successful ones consolidate. The concept of consolidation as an analytical tool is Selbin's contribution to the literature on social revolutions, and it is a provocative addition.

Selbin argues that people make revolutions, yet they are ignored in models