

women in Latin America, some critical words must be directed at the editors of each volume for the tone of their respective introductions. Yeager, after giving a brief outline of women's history, tends to conflate the last one hundred years of the history of women with the history of feminism. Fowler-Salamini and Vaughn pepper their remarks with unfortunate postmodern jargon ("the Revolution . . . engendered a discursive celebration") and seem intent on recasting all rural women as resisters. While female revolutionary leaders clearly resisted, one must ask how typical they were. Depicting a woman raising a household garden, furthermore, as an example of rebellion through "the construction of private space" tends to render the concept of resistance meaningless.

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Aspectos económico-financieros de la seguridad social en América Latina y el Caribe: tendencias, problemas, y alternativas para el año 2000. By CARMELO MESA-LAGO. Santiago: CIEDESS, 1933. Tables. Bibliography. 151 pp. Paper.

Changing Social Security in Latin America: Toward Alleviating the Social Costs of Economic Reform. By CARMELO MESA-LAGO. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1994. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xi, 213 pp. Cloth. \$40.00.

La reforma de la seguridad social y las pensiones en América Latina: importancia y evaluación de las alternativas de privatización. 2d Edition. By CARMELO MESA-LAGO. Quito: INCAE, 1994. Tables. Bibliography. 80 pp. Paper.

These three volumes by Carmelo Mesa-Lago, University of Pittsburgh Distinguished Professor of Economics and Latin American Studies, complement each other yet overlap in content. The discussion and analysis found in *Changing Social Security in Latin America* greatly expands on the material found in *La reforma de la seguridad social*, while *Aspectos económico-financieros de la seguridad social* provides an excellent description of the financing and administration of Latin America's social security systems. In conclusion, Mesa-Lago asserts that Latin America's economic crisis of the 1980s further exacerbated an already fragile and incomplete social security system.

The 1980s crisis had the worst impact on Latin America since the Great Depression of the 1930s. It not only halted economic development for the decade but also exacted social costs across society, albeit unequally. As a result, poverty increased and social protectionism declined, particularly among the laboring and lower-income groups. As the recession deepened, governments lost their intake of funds for social security programs, including unemployment, old age and disability insurance, public assistance, public health, and other social services. Further cuts in these programs stemmed from the lending policies of international institutions, particularly the International Monetary Fund, which preconditioned loans on addi-

tional decreases in government expenditures. By the end of the decade, the need for reforming the social security system had become glaringly apparent.

Mesa-Lago examines the reform processes of eight countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay. Attention generally focuses on Chile because of its success in privatizing many social security programs; still, its reforms, carried out during the Pinochet regime, had shortcomings. Representatives of the disenfranchised had little chance to express concern about their constituents' pain during the transition period; the continuance of military benefits may have been politically expedient but was socially unjust. These errors could not be repeated in today's fragile democracies, where opposition to government policies is freely expressed. Yet governments still need to explore ways to improve and extend coverage and contain costs. The challenge is enormous, and Mesa-Lago calls for a cooperative effort by governments, international agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

Mesa-Lago's expertise on Latin America's social security spans three-and-a-half decades. His books are important reading as the countries of the Southern Hemisphere attempt to cope with the realities of the world's new economic order. His work provides a reminder that a good portion of Latin America's population remains outside the parameters of productive society, and that their situation threatens to worsen as we move toward the twenty-first century.

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Rank and Privilege: The Military and Society in Latin America. Edited by LINDA ALEXANDER RODRÍGUEZ. Wilmington: SR Books, 1994. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. xxii, 239 pp. Cloth, \$40.00. Paper, \$14.95.

The role of the Latin American military in politics, first analyzed systematically a generation ago, continues to intrigue scholars today. Among recent works, this anthology stands out as a welcome addition. It includes an extensive introductory essay by the editor, ten selections from the secondary literature, and a useful list of suggested readings. The individual entries appeared originally between 1973 and 1991: four as articles in well-known journals, the others as sections from books, monographs, or anthologies. Some contributions are regionwide in scope, while others deal specifically with Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil.

To this reviewer, the most valuable section of the book is the editor's introduction. Linda Rodríguez argues that the military, since the late colonial period, has had legitimate and widely recognized responsibilities for defense, internal order, and development. There were sound reasons for the creation and maintenance of a strong military, and equally good reasons for the armed forces to seek a powerful voice in national security affairs and public policy. Rodríguez traces this theme from Spain's dismal experience in the Seven Years' War, which fostered the need