

the hemisphere, beginning with Peter Gerhard's study of a black conquistador in Mexico and ending with an examination of Cuba's modern relations with African countries; the latter, according to Armando Entralgo and David González López, were rooted partly in Fidel Castro's recognition of his country's racial heritage. Most of the chapters focus on the postslavery era. They are especially strong in dealing with the ways Africans have mixed with and melded into the local population. Black Caribs, Ecuadorean frontier dwellers, Haitian religious practitioners, and Jamaican Rastafarians illustrate those processes.

Some chapters, such as Aimé Césaire's discourse on colonialism and Abdias do Nascimento's survey of Brazil's diplomatic relations with Africa, say little directly about the African impact on the region. They do, however, provide examples of Davis' broad interpretive approach, for they introduce two of the area's black intellectuals whose influence has extended worldwide.

Thus, while it has grounds for criticism, a book that brings together writings by Reid Andrews, Michael Conniff, Esteban Montejo, José Luis González, Kenneth Ramchand, and others is certain to find a readership. Moreover, even with their shortcomings, the chapters force the reader to consider how the points raised by various authors might be applied to other contexts and regions. Any book that has this effect is to be welcomed.

PETER BLANCHARD, University of Toronto

The United States and the Caribbean. By ANTHONY P. MAINGOT. Boulder: Westview Press, 1994. Maps. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xi, 260 pp. Cloth, \$52.00. Paper, \$18.95.

No one writing on the Caribbean demonstrates greater or more magisterial command of the area and the interdisciplinary literature than Anthony Maingot. This book illustrates the case. Maingot's definition of the Caribbean covers not only the conventional islands and continental enclaves but also the Central American states, and he persuasively justifies their inclusion.

In this provocatively thoughtful, three-part comparative study, the author insightfully examines the unpredictable reciprocal political interplay of these neighboring small states and limited resources existing in the shadow of a major international power. The first part of the book explores the increasing U.S. interest from the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 to World War II, when hegemony was achieved almost by default. The second part analyzes five dimensions of local action and U.S. reaction during the post-World War II period: Costa Rica in 1948, British Guiana in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, Cuba in 1959, and a number of Caribbean states that played "the Cuban card" after 1959. The third part—the most fascinating and original—deals with a number of contemporary Caribbean regional problems: the threat to social cohesion and national security, offshore banking and other development strategies,

the impact of migration, and the intractable problems of Haiti. The conclusion is a veritable gem of thoughtfulness on the difficulties of small states in articulating and executing concepts of sovereignty within the geopolitical sphere of the United States.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect of this book is the refreshing absence of all the confusing buzzwords common in academic writing over the past 30 years. There is no mention of dependency, underdevelopment, or the neocolonial sphere. Nor is the region considered a part of any exploited periphery. Maingot employs the term *synergies of mutual interdependence* as an efficacious way of evaluating the degrees of independence pertaining to either the United States or the individual Caribbean states. He maintains that only empirical evidence, not “a priori ideologically driven paradigms” (p. 231), can explain the variable conduct of any of the small Caribbean states or the United States in any of the major crises of the past 50 years. Similarly, only by looking at the actions of particular Caribbean states can their degree of independence be established. Finally, he implies that sovereignty is compatible with dependence, provided that a democratic form of government exists.

Both for its perceptively detailed individual case studies and its overall theoretical treatment of the complex and nuanced relations between the United States and the Caribbean states, this work constitutes an outstanding contribution to the field. Overcoming the tendency toward empty clichés and hackneyed phrases, as well as challenging some conventional wisdom, it certainly emerges as the most sophisticated study presently available.

FRANKLIN W. KNIGHT, Johns Hopkins University

Cuba: The International Dimension. Edited by GEORGE FAURIOL and EVA LOSER. New Brunswick: Transaction, 1990. Tables. Figures. Notes. Index. xix, 449 pp. Cloth. \$39.95.

The Cuban Revolution gave birth to a rich literature in the United States, including journalism, fiction, and academic studies of Cuban affairs. It also promoted a new type of professional pursuit, anti-Castroism, in which Cuban Americans have been heavily, but not exclusively, involved. While ideological persuasion has colored many critical accounts of events in Cuba, academic studies are still expected to be objective. And yet, it is sometimes difficult to draw a clear line between academic and partisan interpretations of Cuban events. That the subject has invited ideological polarization and continues to do so is evident.

Cuba's international activism, as it was known for almost three decades of revolutionary foreign policy, had decreased noticeably by the last half of the 1980s and continued to do so into the 1990s. The crisis and demise of Eastern European socialist regimes, followed by the end of the Soviet Union, largely accounted for this policy retrenchment. The days when Cuba exerted a considerable influence in