

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.

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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

world affairs in spite of its small size are practically over, at least for the foreseeable future. On this point—which provides the rationale for the book—George Fauriol, Eva Loser, et al. are generally correct. Nevertheless, the book seems to be mostly a group celebration of Cuba's international retreat or, as Irving L. Horowitz puts it poignantly in the foreword, of "Fidel Castro redux."

Today, Cuba is involved in international affairs as much as before. For the last few years, however, the substance and objective of its foreign policy—its new agreements and alliances—have changed drastically. Currently it seeks new markets and relations, foreign investment, and ways to overcome the U.S. economic blockade, which was tightened under the last administrations. The United Nations' vote for three consecutive years condemning the economic blockade has not deterred Washington.

The so-called core relationships with the Soviet Union (now a matter of historical record) and the United States are covered by two militant Castro opponents, Jiri Valenta and Jaime Suchlicki. Cuba's policies up to the late 1980s in Latin America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and Canada are treated with uneven objectivity or lack thereof. In the final and largest section, "Functional Policy Areas," several conservative Cuba watchers render their own version of these issues. Some areas are examined with scholarly quality, such as Jorge F. Pérez-López' essay on international economic relationships; others, such as Constantine Menges' assessment of 30 years of revolutionary warfare, are mostly ideological statements.

The book constitutes a valuable bibliographical reference, but more for what anti-Castro conservatives in academia and in and out of government have to say about Cuba's policy dilemmas since the late 1980s than for the study of the events themselves. The downside for Cuba, as well as for the United States, is that this kind of study is what nourishes Washington's increasingly internationally isolated anti-Cuba policy.

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Las mujeres en la historia de Colombia. Volume 1, *Mujeres, historia, y política*. Edited by MAGDALA VELÁSQUEZ TORO. Santafé de Bogotá: Consejería Presidencial para la Política Social, 1995. Photographs. Illustrations. Graphs. Tables. Notes. Bibliographies. xxv, 455 pp. Paper.

Notable Latin American Women: Twenty-nine Leaders, Rebels, Poets, Battlers, and Spies, 1500-1900. By JEROME R. ADAMS. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1995. Maps. Bibliography. Index. vi, 191 pp. Cloth. \$28.50.

Las mujeres en la historia de Colombia is the result of an ambitious project to focus attention on the history and reality of Colombian women. The effort was undertaken with the support of two government agencies (the Consejería Presidencial para la Política Social and the Presidencia de la República de Colombia). The first volume, *Mujeres, historia, y política*, presents an overview of women's role, stressing the ex-