

*Al borde del naufragio: democracia, violencia, y problema étnico en el Perú.* By RODRIGO MONTOYA. Lima: Casa de Estudios del Socialismo SUR, 1992. Notes. Bibliography. Index. 118 pp. Paper.

*Dos ensayos sobre José María Arguedas.* By ALBERTO FLORES GALINDO. Lima: Casa de Estudios del Socialismo SUR, 1992. Notes. 47 pp. Paper.

*Racismo y mestizaje.* By GONZALO PORTOCARRERO. Lima: Casa de Estudios del Socialismo SUR, 1993. Illustration. Tables. Notes. Bibliography. Index. 297 pp. Paper.

The dynamic changes the Western world experienced after World War II brought the Peruvian population the many identity problems that are the unifying topic of these three books. Conflicts regarded over the last three or four decades as social in nature have now developed into a giant cultural malaise. Such conflicts originated in the heavy migration of Peru's Andean peoples to coastal cities and towns in search of employment. The result was, and today continues to be, a clash between the traditional Indian way and the modern way of the West. The three authors here understand the Western forces, which are purely capitalistic, with ample means of domination and an ever-expanding technology always on their side.

These three works contain, in all, 14 essays by three scholars who are active members of SUR, a publishing house dedicated to promoting the study of socialism. Drawing heavily from the lessons of colonial history, these Peruvians seek to expose the progressive destruction of the different ethnic groups that once composed the old Inca domain. In that empire, they assert, existed or coexisted about 100 such groups, of which only 58 survive today. The writers' ultimate aim is to safeguard the precious identity of the exploited Indians as, in their migration, they have become subjugated as inferior beings. The main obstacle to all solutions proposed heretofore, these writers contend, is the strong racial prejudice in Peru today. They describe a society divided between the affluent, enterprising whites and mestizos (halfbreeds) living in the cities and the darker-skinned, poorer mestizos and Indians who continually descend from the highlands in search of a better way of life.

After exposing and documenting the existence of racial discrimination, the authors proceed to offer a variety of solutions that might lead to the creation of a viable society with a minimum of the violence typified by the Maoist-leaning Sendero Luminoso. All their proposed solutions are based on *mestizaje*, the integration of the entire population of Peru into a homogeneous, mainly halfbreed society. Ideally, they propose a society seeking economic success while simultaneously preserving the identity of its many components. To realize such a society, the three writers advocate socialism as a protector of racial identity, as opposed to the present capitalistic system; the latter they see as an exploiter of immigrant highlanders kept as cheap labor and future consumers forced to submit to the standards of the dominant class while their own cultural values are sacrificed.

To illustrate their views, all three scholars resort to the writings of José María

Arguedas (1911–69), often called the Peruvian Dostoyevski. In his fiction, published between 1935 and 1969, novelist-ethnologist Arguedas analyzed the impact of economic changes on Peruvian society, particularly the Andean Indians, and defended the right of Peru's many ethnic groups to be different. Arguedas also fictionally portrayed idealistic but pragmatic popular leaders who could serve as inspirations and models to the Peruvians themselves.

These three books could be described as pertaining to social history. Their pages contain no incitement to rebellion—not even a demand for reforms—but rather an invitation to analyze and debate. The overall picture gained from them, however, is sombre and grim, a dark omen for the Peru of the coming century.

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*Revolution by Decree: Peru, 1968–1975.* By DIRK KRUIJT. Amsterdam: Thela, 1994. Tables. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. xii, 202 pp. Paper.

This volume offers a view of Peru's "ambiguous revolution" based on taped interviews conducted by the Dutch social scientist Dirk Kruijt. The text includes lengthy passages from interviews with ministers, advisers, and ambassadors in 1985–86. The author eschews any attempt at analysis, but aims to view the revolution through the eyes of those who made the decisions in the Presidential Palace between 1968 and 1975. Initially published in Dutch in 1989, subsequent editions were published in Spanish and English.

Beginning with a seven-page, detailed account of events in the early morning hours of October 3, 1968, Kruijt traces the historical development of radical reformism in the military. He gives considerable importance to General José del Carmen Marín Arista, his disciple Mercado Jarrín, and their nationalist interpretation of national security. National security gradually came to embrace ideas of political, economic, and social reform. The Centro de Altos Estudios Militares disseminated these ideas to its students, who would eventually surround General Juan Velasco Alvarado on the eve of the coup.

A major contribution of this book is its commentary on President Velasco. Born in a small village outside the northern city of Piura, Velasco never forgot his humble childhood. In the military he gained a reputation as hard working, exacting, honest, unsmiling, and a gifted leader. Affable and cheerful at home, he enjoyed his family above all and never mixed the two worlds. During a game of cards when a guest brought up business, he was reprimanded with, "This is a gathering of friends, not of politicians" (p. 67).

Kruijt reviews the revolution's accomplishments, covering nationalization, agricultural reform, the creation of new ministries, and the formation of the controversial SINAMOS (Sistema Nacional de Movilización Social). Rivalry within the junta over succession emerged when Velasco became gravely ill in March 1973 and gangrene