

political history. Juan Domingo Perón, who rose to national prominence in 1943 and ruled Argentina until 1955, arrives on the scene at the end of Chapter V and remains to dominate Chapter VI. The last two chapters of the book (VII and VIII) deal with Argentina's foreign relations. Essentially, this volume presents a synthesis, achieved with an amazing economy of words, of what the available literature says about these aspects of Argentine life. The synthesis is curiously unbalanced in one sense and admirably balanced in another. The imbalance lies in the heavy attention devoted to Anglo-Argentine relations. This results in a somewhat distorted perspective, perhaps forgivable since Pendle is an Englishman, probably writing for a predominantly British readership. The balance is in the book's largely fair and objective survey of the Perón regime.

Pendle has relatively little that is new to offer to readers familiar with earlier books on Argentina. He advances no particular hypothesis or thesis that is peculiarly his, and the volume is largely written without a sense of problem or notion of the peculiar contribution this book is expected to make to the already large literature on Argentina. As it stands, Pendle's *Argentina* exhibits three chief virtues. First, it is an amazingly concise synthesis and summary of what has been published about Argentine geography, history, and politics. The reader unfamiliar with those words may well be grateful for this handy volume which reviews that material in less than 200 pages. Secondly, the book brings the Perón story more up to date. The terminal date of Pendle's study is September 19, 1955, the date of Perón's fall from power; earlier books on Argentina have, of course, earlier terminal dates. Finally, Pendle's three appendices are most useful. They bring together in one convenient place a good deal of valuable statistical data until now not easily come by. On balance, Latin Americanists will find this little book useful, although few will regard it as a new departure in, or major contribution to, attempts to understand the Argentine nation.

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Problems of Democracy in Latin America. By GALO PLAZA. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. 1955. Pp. x, 88. \$2.50.)

Sr. Plaza's background — education both in his native country and at various universities in the United States, plus his somewhat phenomenal performance as a highly successful president of Ecuador — eminently qualifies him to make this contribution as a lecturer.

Sr. Plaza seems to be a slow starter — unless it be assumed he prepared his lectures for an audience almost totally ignorant of Latin America. The first lecture is almost entirely confined to sketchy generalizations about the area, some of them rather oversimplified. The second deals with the ex-

perience of Ecuador under his government from 1948 to 1952; this, too, is somewhat disappointing, for while he outlines some of the major events the treatment is without significant detail and conveys the impression that the average Ecuadorian was a recipient rather than a participant.

Even well into the third lecture, entitled "Democracy in Latin America — Past and Future," one is uncertain as to Sr. Plaza's intent, for he seems still to be concerned with brief generalizations. But subtly, and in the words of others, he begins to introduce the point that democratic practice in Latin America either is endangered (where it already exists) or has been stillborn through economic shortcomings, and that the United States bears a real responsibility, by commission or omission, for many of these.

The principal difficulty with this forty-six page lecture lies in the presentation. Sr. Plaza uses his own words only in the last four pages to deal with his principal theme. Scattered throughout, with striking disorganization, are twenty-four pages of excerpts from speeches of the delegates from Brazil, Guatemala, Bolivia, Mexico, and Chile at the Caracas Inter-American Conference of 1954. Each contributes to the real topic; yet with the exception of the quotations from the latter two men the effect is not cumulative. Extremely valuable, though certainly overlong quotations from the Guatemalan and Bolivian foreign ministers are in part "thrown away" because of the context in which they are placed: the remarks of the Brazilian foreign minister do not even seem germane except in retrospect. Sr. Plaza has restated things about the inter-American system and United States foreign economic policy that need badly to be said, but his own words are summarizing rather than expository. His conclusion is beyond challenge: "If the United States desires a frank and complete expression of the feeling of Latin America she has to go no further than to analyze the points of view set forth at the Tenth Inter-American Conference at Caracas." But it would have been for better had the author concisely put his ideas in his own words!

Sr. Plaza's other principal statement seems rather intriguing in terms of his later expressed views regarding United States policy. Early in the first lecture he says:

I shall strive . . . to explain that in spite of . . . differences between the people of the North and those of the south of the hemisphere, there are deeper analogies which stem from the fact that we are all children of the New World, with less than five centuries of Western civilization and two of independent government, . . . so that we do not have to bridge great abysses in seeking solutions to our problems — it is simply a matter of understanding each other and trying to know more about one another with no more impressive a weapon than an open mind.

The generosity of an open mind seems highly necessary under any circumstances. But the reflective reader will realize that it is by virtue of the fact that the North American environment is different from the Latin-American that our government and people can present the picture criticized in the

final lecture. They *do* exist, in both quantity and quality, and to imply, however, diplomatically, that they can be "understood" away is unrealistic.

Sr. Plaza has said a number of significant things, many of which needed to be said by a person of his stature. But they have been said confusedly, overdiplomatically, and, too often, indirectly. It seems somehow that his own North American-ness has caused him to be uncertain as to how to approach his subject. Would that he had done it boldly and with full awareness of his potential effectiveness!

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Asia and Africa in the Modern World—Basic Information concerning Independent Countries. Edited by S. L. POPLAI. (New York: Institute of Pacific Relations. 1955. Pp. viii, 218. \$1.25.)

This useful handbook, prepared by the Asian Relations Organization with the assistance of the Indian Council of World Affairs, was published about a month prior to the opening of the Asian-African Conference at Bandung. Following a brief account of the genesis of the Conference, the book presents a compilation of pertinent facts about the twenty-nine countries of Asia and Africa which were represented at Bandung—plus the Central African Federation, which declined an invitation to attend. Lengthy appendices contain statistical tables, the texts of such important documents as the Covenant of the League of Arab States and the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty, and resolutions or communiqués from the Asian Relations Conference of 1947, the Conference on Indonesia in 1949, the Baguio Conference of 1950, the meeting of the prime ministers of the "Colombo Powers" at Colombo in May, 1954, and at Bogor in the following December.

An amazing amount of information is presented in a clear, concise, and objective fashion in this handbook. Although it was prepared chiefly for the use of the participants in the Bandung Conference, it should be of great utility to all who are interested in having readily accessible background information about most of the independent countries of Asia and Africa.

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Les Partis Politiques Marocains. By ROBERT REZETTE. (Paris: Librairie Armand Colin. 1955. Pp. xvi, 404. 1.300 F.)

Despite the myriad of recent works on the Arab world in ferment, revolt, or transition, few have probed beneath the surface to discover just what this thing called "nationalism" really is. *Les Partis Politiques Marocains*, fortunately, is a formidable exception. The result of a dedicated re-