

Essentially the book is a travel narrative of the author's trips throughout Venezuela. This includes excursions onto the Llanos, the Cordillera, to the mouth of the Orinoco, and the Coastal Range. At times his approach is extremely scientific, and we are subjected to a long catalog of plants and animals. At other times, which fortunately become increasingly more frequent as the book progresses, he paints beautiful word pictures of the landscape. Much to Appun's discredit, he also indulges in the habit, so common among nineteenth-century European travel narrators, of deprecating the local population. He is particularly abusive toward the Negro, but on occasion Indians, and even white Venezuelans suffer under his condemnations. Though these outbursts of European arrogance detract greatly from the quality of the book, it has merit for those who are interested in an account of rural life in nineteenth-century Venezuela.

A word should be said in praise of the Universidad Central and the book's translator, Federica de Ritter. Appun's work was not easy to translate. His frequent use of English, German, and French, and his ungrammatical and misspelled quotations in Spanish required innumerable footnotes. The book itself is a handsome edition, with three indexes, one each for flora, fauna, and geographical names. Supplemented by the author's own line drawings from the original edition, and provided with a hard cover, it ranks beside the best books from the university presses of the U.S.

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MORTON WINSBERG

*British Guiana.* By RAYMOND T. SMITH. London, 1962. Oxford University Press. Royal Institute of International Affairs. Notes. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Map. Pp. 218. \$4.00.

This volume is the first comprehensive treatment of modern British Guiana by a social scientist, and it is a very satisfying one. Having spent over two years in Guiana covering four separate visits between 1951 and 1958, Professor Smith reflects his experience through his writing in such a way that the reader, or at least this reader, is willing to place a large measure of confidence in the accuracy of his judgments.

Unlike many of the books that have been written on British Guiana, this one is concerned not with the primitive interior and the spectacles that nature presents but rather with the coastal people (93% of the total), their social structure, their economy, their history, and their present problems. Since the Guianese people include East Indians (both Hindu and Moslem), whites (both Catholic and

Protestant), Chinese, and Africans, it is appropriate that a sociologist should undertake the task of assessing British Guiana; and the best sections of Smith's book deal with matters of race and class and the nuances of social attitudes.

Another of the strengths of the book is that the author employs his historical sense to orient the reader not merely through the chapters on political history but also through the evolution of changing status and changing behavior of the people over the last 100 years.

Although Professor Smith makes two critical references to the only other comprehensive book of recent years on British Guiana (*British Guiana*. By Michael Swan. London, 1957. H.M.S.O. The Corona Library), yet I think there is certain advantage in deriving one's understanding and picture of the country from reading both. The latter, which is also a good book of its kind, is journalistic, less analytical, directed more toward presenting to the reader a visual image of the country, and comes close to presenting the official British view of Guianese affairs. For the reader who has already read Swan's book, Smith offers the correctives of more depth, surer analysis, the weighing of data, and a critical attitude toward the official colonial and sugar policies.

The problems of a country even as small as British Guiana are very complex. I have the feeling after laying the book down that Professor Smith, after disposing of some commonly held misconceptions, finds that he himself is not at all confident in diagnosing the present or prognosticating the future. He believes that British Guiana has the cultural basis for a single, dedicated effort to economic self-realization, but he underlines the possibility of a clash based on race. He minimizes the importance of Jagan's leanings toward communism, but he hopes that the new regime will not blame all of its mistakes on "imperialism" and "neo-colonialism" nor resort to propaganda and imprisonment as an antidote for its own shortcomings.

The author's style is exceedingly readable, compact, and sensibly free from technical sociological terms. A select bibliography contains valuable items of periodical literature as well as broader references.

A book like this necessarily becomes rapidly dated—more so in our fast moving times than in those of a generation ago. In both his preface and postscript, Smith brings his volume up to date as of the time of printing by commenting on the August, 1961, elections and Jagan's diplomatic mission to the United States. He could not, however, include the riots of early 1962 against the tax program of the

PPP. Dated as this book must inevitably become, it gives a broad and intelligent basis for understanding British Guiana for many years to come.

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ROBERT C. BEYER

*The Alliance for Progress. Problems and Perspectives.* Edited by JOHN C. DREIER. Baltimore, 1962. Johns Hopkins Press. Index. Pp. xviii, 146. \$3.95.

This volume was born of a lecture series sponsored by the School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University. The five contributors, Milton S. Eisenhower, Raúl Prebisch, José Figueres, Teodoro Moscoso, and Dean Rusk, and editor John C. Dreier need no introduction to readers of the *HAHR*. In order the authors concern themselves with the historic, economic, political, and social aspects of the Alliance for Progress and finally the Alliance in the context of world affairs. At the end of the volume is a copy of "The Charter of Punta del Este."

There are several things to recommend this volume. Dreier did an excellent job as editor. It is well printed. It can be read quickly. And the least worthwhile contribution—that by Mr. Eisenhower—comes first. Having disposed of that, one has enjoyable and interesting, if not particularly enlightening reading until he comes to Secretary Rusk's statement, which concludes the volume and which, for reasons suggested below, is less than satisfying.

The two best reasons for including Mr. Eisenhower's contribution that occur to this reviewer are that he is the brother of a former president of the United States and that he is himself president of the institution that sponsored the series. Certainly it is clear that he knows little about the people and problems of Latin America, despite his junkets there in the not too distant past. But it is to Mr. Eisenhower's credit that he manfully, if not always convincingly, defends the proposition that the policies of his president-brother did not in fact lead to the need for the Alliance for Progress, as some of us believe, but actually set the stage for the U.S. commitment.

Mr. Prebisch states his position concisely and with conviction. Nowhere to this reviewer's knowledge does he say so much in so few words. Students will find what he has to offer quite valuable both as representative of the point of view of a responsible sector of Latin American society and as a jumping off place for more intensive examination of Latin America's economic strength and weakness.

"Pepe" Figueres is so generous of his time, writes so much, and