

States saw in Mexico an opportunity for economic penetration that eclipsed old disputes and encouraged amicable relations.

Lic. Cosío belongs to the historical school which advocates letting the "facts" speak for themselves. And this they do through the media of diplomatic dispatches; official and private correspondence, pronouncements, and records; newspapers and periodicals; books, articles, and other sources employed by historians. In the main they speak with only a trace of a Mexican accent and of Cosío's inflection. There are no notable heroes or villains, and guilt, blame, and credit are equally shared among Mexicans and foreigners. As a matter of fact, the reviewer would like to have seen some sections of the volume devoted to summary and interpretation. They would be particularly welcome to the reader who lacks the time or the inclination to consume some 900 pages of narrative. Diplomacy is related in balanced proportions to the internal affairs of Mexico and her diplomatic neighbors, and Cosío's observations on this relationship in his preface are worthy of note. The volume contains a valuable bibliographic essay and a list of sources which indicate the great range and depth of research on which it is based.

This writer agrees fully with reviewers of early volumes that the *Historia moderna de México* is a monumental work judged either quantitatively or qualitatively. It is probably the most impressive product of modern Mexican historiography, and this volume maintains the high standards of preceding ones. One cannot help but marvel at and envy a person who serves as the unofficial *patrón* of a large section of the Mexican historical profession, discharges important teaching and administrative duties at the Colegio de México, serves as consultant to the Mexican Foreign Office and the Banco Nacional de México, and at the same time finds the time, energy, and inspiration to direct and contribute to an undertaking of this magnitude.

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Política agrícola. Ensayo sobre normas para México. By RAMÓN FERNÁNDEZ Y FERNÁNDEZ and RICARDO ACOSTA. México, 1961. Fondo de Cultura Económica. Tables. Index. Pp. 269. Paper.

The number of academic textbooks and other writings on the economics and politics of agriculture is fast multiplying these days throughout Latin America, testimony to the rising concern for planning the rapid growth of output and trade of agricultural commodities and for determining the role of agriculture in an industrializing

society. To make a maximum contribution, a discussion of the planning of agricultural development, i.e. of agricultural policy, ought to fit into a general conceptual framework, the outlines of which are formed by a set of social and economic norms. This is all the more important, because policy measures must by their very nature pursue a variety of distinct, and at times even contradictory, social and economic objectives. To furnish such a framework is a task which befalls the academician. It can be sought, as it has been done in some cases,¹ in economic theory for the economic aspects of agricultural policy, or it can be fitted into a broader social philosophy.²

Unfortunately, *Política agrícola* seems to lack such a framework. Hence, it will be of somewhat limited usefulness to policy makers in Latin America and their advisors, faced with the decisions on whether, for example, to develop an agriculture based on family-sized farms, or on large-scale, commercial, mechanized, units; or on privately owned or collectively organized farms; or whether to assign production quotas and goals to individual farmers or leave the pattern of production to the individual decisions of farmers on the basis of the guidelines furnished by the so-called forces of the market, and *who will have to justify their decisions on grounds other than merely political or sentimental ones.*

It is also regrettable that the author of *Política agrícola*—Fernández y Fernández is Mexico's foremost agricultural economist and rightly regarded as one of Mexico's best experts in agricultural policy—have limited their text exclusively to Mexican experience. True, the text furnishes an excellent critical description of the Mexican agrarian revolution and its need of a "reform of agrarian reform," or its price programs, but the lessons which other Latin American nations can draw from such programs are not clearly stated and are often only faintly implicit—with the exception of lessons learned from the distribution of land to very small landholders. But this has by now become well known and is obvious to most agriculturists.³

Política agrícola deals with Land Tenure in Mexico (Ch. IV), Production and Land Utilization Patterns (V-IX), Education, Research and Technical Assistance (X-XII), Credit (XIV), Taxes (XVI), Labor (XVII), and Prices (XVIII). The book can be recom-

¹ See, for example, H. Halerow's text on *Agricultural Policy* (Prentice Hall).

² See the excellent text of R. Schiekele, *Agricultural Policy* (McGraw-Hill), soon to be published in Spanish by the Fondo de Cultura.

³ Of course, there is great merit in repeating over and over that an agrarian reform which seeks to establish an agriculture based primarily on family type operations does not therefore intend to establish "minifundios"—as pretend some enemies of land reform in order to discredit it.

mended to beginning students of Mexican agriculture, but the more sophisticated reader will use it only as a stepping stone to further studies, the references to which he will have to look for elsewhere. For the student of Mexico's land reform, *Política agrícola* is obligatory reading.

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Incidents of Travel in Yucatan. 2 Vols. By JOHN LLOYD STEPHENS. Edited and introduction by VICTOR WOLFGANG VON HAGEN. Norman, Oklahoma, 1962. University of Oklahoma Press. Illustrations. Appendix. Index. Pp. xxxiv, 315, xix, 327. \$15.00.

Among the ruins of the Ancient World, a New Jersey-born lawyer discovered a genuine interest and ability in archeology and in writing. It was then that John Lloyd Stephens decided to record his impressions in a series of two-volume sets: first, in 1838, he published *Incidents of Travel in Egypt, Arabia Petraea, and the Holy Land*; in the following year—and using the first four words of the previous title which had been so successful—there appeared a set on Greece, Turkey, Russia, and Poland. Hailed as the great American traveler, Stephens' books had a remarkable sale; in three years abroad he had made twenty-five thousand dollars. While in London, moreover, he met his future companion Frederick Catherwood, an English painter and architect who had also traveled extensively in the Middle East. The two partners left New York for Central America in October, 1839, determined to explore more ancient sites. In addition, Stephens had accepted a diplomatic assignment, namely, to renew the United States' treaty with the Central American Republic. But civil war frustrated his objective; and thus Stephens was able to devote full time to the exploration of ruins in Middle America, especially those at Copán (Honduras), Palenque (Chiapas), and Uxmal (Yucatán). Those buildings, he noted, were the work of one and the same people, the Mayas, and they had no connection with civilizations of the Old World—a novel conclusion for the times. Unable to complete their work in Yucatán because of Catherwood's illness, the explorers returned to the United States. In 1841, Stephens published a third set of "Incidents," dealing with his recent findings. By October of that year, the travelers were on their way back to Yucatán accompanied by Samuel Cabot, a young Bostonian doctor. During the next ten months, the trio explored no less than forty-four Mayan locations to the south and east of Mérida and along the Atlantic coast and islands of Yucatán—the subject of the two volumes under review.