

*Relaciones inter-raciales en América Latina, 1940-1960.* By JUAN COMAS. México, 1961. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Cuadernos del Instituto de Historia. Serie Antropología. No. 12. Bibliography. Indices. Pp. 77. Paper.

With racial tensions predicted to increase in Latin America a survey of race relations and current (1940-60) studies on this area of human relations is timely and necessary. Mexican sociologist Juan Comas' study, sponsored by UNESCO, was originally published in the *Revue Internationale des Social Sciences* (Vol. XIII, Num. 2, 1961). Previously UNESCO had published in 1958 studies on race relations in many areas of the world but omitted Latin America; thus, as Comas observes, reflecting the attitude of many of the Latin American elite who hope that if ignored the problem will disappear.

The study of race relations in Brazil, Central America, and Mexico is fairly well advanced. Above all, it is encouraging to note that more studies are being carried out by Latin Americans who are recognizing the peculiarities of the social tensions among the racial groups in their own areas. Much is still to be done in the Andean and La Plata areas. Comas is weakest when he deals with the Caribbean. He apparently accepts R. Beals erroneous classification of Santo Domingo (*sic*) within those areas of predominantly European settlement. Although he visited Puerto Rico in 1959 he fails to mention the studies of a new group of writers, including E. Seda, C. Rosario, E. Padilla. The extensive bibliography does not pretend to be complete and additions are requested. One might suggest F. Tannenbaum, M. Mörner, H. Hoetink, and A. Rosenblatt.

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*Essays in Federalism.* Edited by the INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES IN FEDERALISM. Claremont, California, 1961. Claremont Men's College. Charts. Notes. Index. Pp. 220. \$4.50.

This volume, the first in a series of projected works on federalism to be published by the Institute for Studies in Federalism, is a collection of five essays prepared by members of the faculty of Claremont Men's College. The first essay, by George C. S. Benson, President of the College and longtime exponent of decentralized government, extols the virtues of decentralization virtually without regard for the possible benefits of centralized political authority. Martin Diamond analyzes *The Federalist* papers with respect to their references to the advantages of federalism and concludes, unhappily, that their authors failed to take seriously the advantages of decentralization. Harold F. McClelland's essay purports to show how these advantages can be preserved today through a reorganization of the system of federal grants to states. Procter Thomson attempts to apply some of the techniques of economic analysis to the "optimum area problem" in intergovernmental relations.

Of greatest interest to readers of this journal is an essay by William S. Stokes on the four so-called federal republics of Latin America. The main point that he makes is, not surprisingly, that federalism in Latin America, because of its tendency toward overcentralization, has never existed in the form known to North Americans. Moreover, Stokes sees no prospects for a reversal of this tendency; on the contrary, centralization, he emphasizes, assumed a highly exaggerated form in Argentina and Brazil under Perón and Vargas respectively, in Venezuela in recent years, and to a lesser degree in Mexico under the continuing Revolution. Nor do any of these countries, though now with generally more liberal regimes than before, show any inclination today toward decentralizing political power, a fact which Stokes regards as inimical to individual freedom and responsibility and hence to the attainment of democratic institutions. Although this essay contains nothing new to the Latin Americanist, it is an accurate analysis of an important, and to