

nism is the alternative to the established order overlooks the fact and strength of the military. Add the church and the ultimate power of the United States; then, it does not seem likely that communism could take over, even if men like Frondizi and Quadros cannot effect the reforms and production needed. The interests of this trilogy of power are antithetical to communism. And there is no reason why Latin America could not continue under semi-militarism as a countervailing power to the threat of communism.

In the main, the monograph restates general problems with helpful statistics, showing the growing Sino-Soviet interest and activity in Latin America.

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#### COLONIAL PERIOD

*Lecciones de California.* By ALFONSO TEJA ZABRE. México, 1962. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Publicaciones del Instituto de Historia. No. 63. Indices. Pp. 163. Paper.

The author's intention is to present episodes of dramatic and human interest to illustrate certain aspects of California history. Selecting topics of regional history which would be largely unknown to Mexican nationals, Teja Zabre has borrowed liberally, though somewhat indiscriminately, from both standard and questionable works in an effort to demonstrate to his reading public that non-Mexican authors have a distinctly different point of view concerning the Hispanic periods of California history—an evaluation not burdened by apology or religious motives. As a result, the "foreign historians can judge such features as the missionaries and their work with serenity and even coolness, and at times with reservations that it is well to understand and analyze to obtain a more complete picture of events and of men."

Most prominently treated episodes concern the role of José de Gálvez, the

Rezanof-Concepción Argüello courtship, and the difficulties of Mexican Governor Mariano Chico. The laudable ambition of attempting to clarify for his fellow countrymen the record of pre-American California is to be commended; but it is startling to learn how little is known south of the border concerning the bibliography of English language sources for regional history. Little new or noteworthy material is presented, and the author frequently engages in the very questionable practice of bodily lifting footnote type references from Bancroft's *History of California* without acknowledgment of his debt to that author. Dozens of typographical mistakes, factual errors, and an inaccurate index further rob the work of any authority that it might possess to teach lessons about California.

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*Falso-facsimil del Acta del Cabildo Extraordinario del 20 de Julio de 1810.* Edited and Introduction by FERNANDO RESTREPO URIBE. Bogotá, 1961. Editorial Kelly and Lito-Lucros. Pp. [20], 12. Velvet and Paper.

The original of the *Acta* which marked Bogotá's first open breach with Spanish rule was destroyed by fire in 1900. Fortunately it had been copied and printed in Bogotá, in 1848, 1872, and 1894. From these three published versions and from other samples of the handwriting of the *cabildo escribano*, Eugenio Martín Melendro, and of the signers, Dr. Fernando Restrepo Uribe, Executive Secretary of the Instituto Colombiano de Cultura Hispánica, has reconstructed what he carefully states to be a false-facsimile of the now-lost original.

As perfect as any such effort can be, this facsimile is on a well-imitated version of the pea-soup green *papel sellado* of the times, the purported inky text is faded brown, there are blots and rubrics of the scrivener and the