

independence, Peru, Bolivia, and Argentina each pursued a policy aimed at diminishing Chilean power. Frequently, the three anti-Chilean powers cooperated in this policy. As a consequence, Chile became an isolated nation. The main culprit was Argentina, obsessed by a desire to extend its rule from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Owing to faulty statesmanship and lack of vision, Chile needlessly lost thousands of square miles of national territory to Argentina, represented by informed, astute and scheming diplomats. Regret is expressed that Brazil did not realize the advantages to be obtained from a defensive treaty with Chile in the early twentieth century when the Andean boundary dispute threatened to explode into war. The diplomatic history which Espinosa has written of balance-of-power politics in South America, 1810-1906, constitutes the most fascinating and valuable part of the book, notwithstanding its strongly nationalistic bias which may be particularly unfortunate at this time when Latin American cooperation has become imperative.

The development of greatest significance in contemporary South America, according to Espinosa, is the expansion of Brazil to the West. Thanks to railway and road connections through Bolivia, Peru, and Chile, Brazil will soon be, economically speaking, a transcontinental power. Peru and Bolivia will probably benefit more from increasing contact with Brazil than will Chile. Especially Peruvians, it is contended, have more economic forethought than Chileans, and have developed a better transportation system than their southern neighbors. As Peru's and Bolivia's economic situations improve, they may think of gaining revenge on Chile for its War of the Pacific triumph. What, then, should Chile's policy be? To increase vastly its military strength, answers Espinosa. Here is an incredible suggestion for a country that may already be losing the battle to meet its internal social crisis.

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## THE PLATA REGION

*El Santo de la Espada.* By RICARDO ROJAS. Buenos Aires, 1961. Editorial Kraft. Illustrations. Pp. 426.

That this book has been reissued in another printing is testimony that the interpretation by the great Argentine man of letters fills a need in Latin American history—a need to interpret and explain the personality of José de San Martín, whose actions in liberating a goodly portion of South America from Spain and his retirement to Europe present many enigmas to the historian. It is a literary biography of an idealist presented in three parts: Initiation, Achievement, and Renunciation or, as San Martín himself said, "My youth was sacrificed to the service of the Spaniards; my middle age to that of my fatherland; I have the right to dispose of my old age."

The author did an excellent job of interpreting a great man. San Martín emerges clear and certain in the major role of the drama of the liberation of South America. His work in Argentina, Chile, and Peru is detailed; the height of popularity and achievement is reached; the climactic Interview at Guayaquil takes place; and then San Martín removes himself from the scene of his triumphs to self-exile in Europe.

Many Latin Americanists have lamented the lack of footnotes, bibliography, maps, index, and other accoutrements of scholarly volumes. It has not supplanted, nor was it intended to supplant, the works of Bartolomé Mitre and others, but it has filled a need for interpretation that will remain a part of Sanmartiniana. It is a book to be read with delight and profit by the layman and the professional historian. Since it was translated several years ago into English, it will probably be little known in the United States except by the professional, but it already occupies a prominent place in libraries in South America.

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