

## BOOK REVIEWS

### GENERAL

*Spain: A Modern History.* By RHEA MARSH SMITH. Ann Arbor, 1965. The University of Michigan Press. University of Michigan History of the Modern World. Bibliography. Index. Maps. Pp. 508. \$8.75.

In line with the general policy of the University of Michigan History of the Modern World, the present volume concentrates heavily on the period since the French Revolution. Thus half is devoted to Spain since 1788, whereas William C. Atkinson's history in the Pelican series devotes only one-third of its space to the period since 1788, and the corresponding fraction for Harold V. Livermore's history is about two ninths. Smith's account is in general factual, clear, and well-organized, although in chapters such as "The Disputed Succession" (dealing with the Carlist wars) and "The Democratic Trend and the Cultural Scene" the narrative tends to become submerged in a catalogue of names, dates, and titles. The chapter on "The Civilization of Moslem Spain" incorporates the results of the best recent scholarship. The tone of the whole work is objective and balanced.

It is unfortunate, however, that the author pays very little attention to some of the most characteristic and intense features of Spanish intellectual history. Vives and Erasmus are mentioned as men ahead of their time, but no further details are given. Sanz del Río, Giner de los Ríos, Menéndez y Pelayo, Unamuno, and Ortega y Gasset all are named, but the reader learns nothing about the specific nature or importance of their work. Neither Marcel Bataillon's *Erasme et l'Espagne* nor Américo Castro's *The Structure of Spanish History* appears in the list of suggested readings. Sometimes also the author neglects to place his remarks in the proper context. Thus in the midst of a description of Moslem architecture he writes that "in an age when cleanliness was far removed from Godliness, public baths multiplied throughout the country" (p. 49). The disparaging remark about the "age" applies properly to Christian Europe in the Middle Ages, but not to the Moslem Spain he is describing. The discussion of the Republican era is temperate and factual, but proper perspective is not gained by the use of the words "extremists" and "Communists" more as they apply to the Cold War of the 1950s than as they apply to Spain of the 1930s. Thus Smith writes of the 1931 Cortes elections

that "Significantly enough, not a single Communist was elected" (p. 435). Since in the spring of 1931 there were only one thousand Communists and virtually no "fellow-travelers" in Spain, it is quite natural that no Communists were elected.

To sum up, the book is a careful exposition of geography, and of political and diplomatic history. It contains relatively little cultural history, and very little interpretation of Spain's complex spiritual and intellectual heritage.

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*Contemporary Cultures and Societies of Latin America. A Reader in the Social Anthropology of Middle and South America and the Caribbean.* Edited by DWIGHT B. HEATH and RICHARD N. ADAMS. New York, 1965. Random House, Inc. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 586. \$8.95.

*Agrarian Reform in Latin America.* Edited by T. LYNN SMITH. New York, 1965. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. A Borzoi Book on Latin America. Bibliography. Pp. 206. Paper. \$2.50

Like most collections of articles or excerpts these two compilations are mixed bags. *Contemporary Cultures and Societies of Latin America* will fill many gaps on university reading lists. This is a generous collection of twenty-eight articles grouped into four general categories: "The Delineation of Cultural Entities in Latin America," "Land, Agriculture and Economics," "Social Organization," and "Views of the World." The volume concludes with a selected bibliography, arranged by country, supplementing the references made at the end of each article. Heath and Adams are to be complimented not only for the range and quality of the articles presented, but also for their introductory contributions at the beginning of each section. One reads them with the wish that these had been longer, since they provide an illuminating focus for the material that follows which should prove of interest, particularly for non-anthropologists. The appearance here of articles such as those by Oscar Nuñez del Prado, Mario Vázquez, William Mangin, Gino Germani, and Thales de Azevedo will bring to students' attention valuable analyses which were published in obscure places or which were originally published in Spanish or Portuguese. Two pieces (by Anthony Leeds and Daniel Goldrich) were prepared especially for this volume and have not appeared elsewhere.