

existence, the Brazilian latifundia system survives in our own time with sufficient powers to firmly maintain control over our agrarian economy.”

The author enters the hoary historical debate as to whether the colonial regime was essentially capitalistic or feudal. Refuting the statements of Roberto C. Simonsen, his answer is that it was emphatically feudal in nature. Few owned land in Brazil. Because of their wealth and property, landowners dominated the majority. “The monopoly of the land . . . assures the latifundia class . . . the extra-economic power. The extra-economic power is a characteristic and a residue of feudalism.” Millions of Brazilians today live, he points out, under feudal or semi-feudal conditions.

Passos Guimarães takes primarily a Marxian point of view, but he presents a much sounder and saner case than most books bearing the Editôra Fulgor imprint. The book makes good reading, and in his many charts and statistics, the author amply displays for his reader the sources for his interpretations.

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The Political Economy of Latin America. By WENDELL C. GORDON. New York, 1965. Columbia University Press. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 401. \$8.75.

A more accurate title for this book might be *Latin American Economic and Commercial Lore*. It provides the reader with a miscellaneous assortment of economic facts, ideas, and opinions helpful only to a limited degree in understanding the field. A basic defect is the absence of an adequate or consistent analytical base, and this curtails the book's usefulness and significance. An illuminating example of the book's lack of integration appears in the topic headings of chapter 11 dealing with institutional barriers—landowners, dictators, army, Catholicism, bureaucracy, lack of entrepreneurship, decentralization and delegation of responsibility, and the Spanish language. In the important area of Latin American economics, which calls for a thoroughgoing and analytically oriented treatment, this book must be regarded as little more than a tentative step. It is far from being the definitive work which its title suggests.

The author's stated analytical framework is that of the Veblen-Ayres model. Yet his book fails to adhere to the author's own expression of this model (Chapter 11). He presents a pastiche of professed institutionalism bearing Veblen's label and such fragments of

orthodox economics as suit his purpose or convenience. In the main he seems to be saying that orthodox economics is a subordinate and unimportant discipline, despite its demonstrated achievements in predicting and controlling economic phenomena such as unemployment and the trade cycle. He also appears to be denying the important advisory role of economists in achieving unprecedentedly high levels of economic development. Moreover, he neglects the abundant orthodox literature on invention, innovation, and technological change.

The book's particular weakness for students and laymen is that it gives an erroneous conception of the nature of the economic problem and the possible contribution, modest though it may be, that economists can make to the solution of Latin American problems. The author's approach permits him to indulge in assertions and *obiter dicta* ignoring relevant evidence or even contradicting data. He recognizes the result of his methods in the topic sentence of his conclusion: "This book is much more an expression of opinion than it is a rigorous report of research findings." Readers should take this sentence quite literally.

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Library Guide for Brazilian Studies. By WILLIAM VERNON JACKSON. Pittsburgh, 1964. University of Pittsburgh Book Centers. Map. Tables. Appendices. Notes. Bibliography. Indices. Pp. 197. \$7.00.

This volume is an attempt to remedy the lack of adequate guides to library resources in the United States for Brazilian studies. Originally prepared for the Eighth Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (1963), the *Guide* describes holdings in seventy-four libraries as of about July 1964. Major divisions are general materials (such as manuscripts, government publications, bibliographies, and the woefully few newspapers), humanities, science and technology, and social sciences including history and law.

The subsections on history and law are disappointing in a number of respects. The user will search in vain for indications of the availability of such basic sources as the *Anais* and *Documentos Históricos* series formerly published by the Biblioteca Nacional, the *Publicações* of the Arquivo Nacional, or (with very few exceptions) the publications of the various state historical societies and state archives. The subsection on law is equally incomplete, for although various collections of legislation and decisions are reported for the national period, not a single one of the codes, calendars, or collections of laws