

country survey of our relations is solid, for he is impartial and able to consider objectively the mistakes made by both the Americans and the Latin Americans.

Mecham could improve the next edition of this standard text by including material from E. David Cronon's book on Josephus Daniels in Mexico and Robert H. Ferrell's article in the March 1965 issue of the *Journal of American History* on the Clark Memorandum, and also by considering the impact of the European naval race on Theodore Roosevelt's policy.

University of Missouri

WALTER V. SCHOLLES

The United States and Inter-American Relations, a Contemporary Appraisal. By GEORGE WYTHE. Gainesville, 1964. University of Florida Press. Notes. Index. Pp. 251.

Shall the United States achieve its policies in Latin America "through the use of military and economic power in a manner that will leave a running sore, or on the basis of understanding and cooperative policies that will inspire respect and continuing cooperation"? This is the central question posed in this thought-provoking book. The author's purpose is to have a "frank and free wheeling discussion of some of the more significant aspects of Inter-American relations." His discussion of the overthrow of the Guatemalan government in 1954 "by an invasion from Honduras having the moral and *perhaps* material backing of the United States," is less than frank. It has been common knowledge and is publicly admitted that the CIA gave material backing to this invasion force. Yet with few other exceptions the author has discussed sensitive issues with candor and understanding.

Dr. Wythe notes significant changes in public opinion. "In the United States," he says, "there has also been a growing sentiment that the rule of non-intervention has become too absolute and inflexible." This radical change in United States policy materialized in the Dominican intervention and the tremendous efforts on the part of the United States and a few Latin American countries to create a permanent Inter-American Military Force. In questions of foreign aid the author points out the velocity with which the law of diminishing returns works. Sometimes there actually exists a negative relationship between the resources employed and the results obtained. As he states, "One of the main difficulties in the past has been the tendency to assume that if \$50,000 can be used to advantage, \$5 millions will do one hundred times as much good. Actually, the expenditure of

the larger sum, instead of achieving a political breakthrough or economic takeoff, may well end by creating no end of headaches and tensions.”

Another point on which the author puts major emphasis is the futility of American efforts to influence Latin America to adopt institutions which have worked in the United States but which might not work in Latin America. On this point, the author concludes: “It would certainly be naive to assume that Latin American political evolution will necessarily follow along British and American lines.” One may also add social, economic, and cultural evolution as well. In the author’s opinion full understanding of this particular point, on the part of the United States government, would immediately result in much smoother relations with Latin America. A corollary of the above is the extreme sensitivity of the United States when criticized and its tendency to equate opposition with pro-Communism. This phobia toward Communism has led the United States to support governments whose every action was contrary to democratic processes and the dignity of the individual and has weakened our claim to leadership of the democratic forces of the world.

Men yearn for peace but the assumption that better economic conditions among Latin American nations will assure peace may be a dangerous delusion. The author wisely points out that “the resentment of the debtor” is being replaced by the more vigorous and self-respecting hostility of the rival! He concludes: “Latin America yearns for a *soul* and voice of its own and a chance to follow the line of its own internal evolution.” Is the United States sufficiently mature in its leadership to permit Latin Americans to experiment with different social systems in finding its true self?

Michigan State University

GARLAND P. WOOD

Inter-American Conferences 1826-1954: History and Problems. By SAMUEL GUY INMAN. Edited and with a preface by HAROLD EUGENE DAVIS. Washington, D. C., 1965. The University Press of Washington, D. C. Index. Pp. 282. \$6.00. Paper. \$4.00.

This volume is a posthumous publication of Samuel Guy Inman who died on February 19, 1965. It had been his intention to survey the history and problems of inter-American conferences from 1826 to the Cuban crisis, but since much of the final section was unfinished, the editor decided to terminate the discussion with the Caracas Conference of 1954. There is a brief concluding chapter gleaned from notes left by the author.