

as late as early 1966 American spokesmen continue to call for free elections in that country.

As Professor Wright has noted in this excellent study, the policy of support of free elections has not served American foreign interests. A reexamination of its value in foreign affairs would appear to be in order.

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*Wilson: Confusions and Crises, 1915-1916.* By ARTHUR S. LINK. Princeton, N. J., 1964. Princeton University Press. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 386. \$8.50.

*Wilson: Campaigns for Progressivism and Peace, 1916-1917.* By ARTHUR S. LINK. Princeton, N.J., 1965. Princeton University Press. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 464. \$8.50.

Volumes IV and V of Arthur S. Link's monumental biography of Woodrow Wilson deal primarily with America's entry into World War I, and Latin American affairs play a much less important role than in volumes II and III. Indeed, since Link foresightedly disposed of the whole Haitian intervention in volume III, these later installments deal only with Mexico: two chapters on Villa's raid into Columbus, New Mexico, and the Pershing punitive expedition in *Confusions and Crises* and a few scattered pages in *Campaigns for Progressivism and Peace*. Wherever Mexico appears, it interrupts what the reader cannot help regarding as the more important course of European affairs and thus probably reflects Wilson's recurring irritation at having to haggle with Carranza and chase Villa when he would much rather be restoring peace to Europe and thus keeping the United States out of the War.

Now that Professor Link has reached the milestone of April 1917 in American-European relations and disposed of all but the final details of Wilson's Latin American policy, perhaps it would be appropriate to strike a balance concerning the four volumes of his biography which deal with Wilson's first presidential term. As the work proceeds, it becomes less and less a conventional biography, for Wilson as a person recedes into the background and often entirely disappears for pages at a time. His private life is developed in separate, intrusive chapters such as the one in volume IV dealing with his courtship and second marriage. Here Mrs. Galt breaks the flow of *grosse Politik* as much as Pancho Villa. Link has sometimes failed to suggest how Wilson's personal trials could have influenced his public actions,

as, for example, during the agonizing spring and summer of 1914, when his first wife sickened and died. Indeed, as World War I increasingly demands the President's attention, Link's treatment approaches that of conventional diplomatic history, proceeding in an orderly but hardly exciting manner from one communication to the next.

Very likely a completely satisfactory integration of personal and public lives is impossible in the case of a many-faceted President such as Wilson, and one should be grateful for a penetrating analysis of his politics and diplomacy, based on a great variety of Democratic, Republican, American, British, and German sources. Even this analysis is somewhat flawed, however, by excessively long quotations from diplomatic correspondence which retard the narrative and could often be paraphrased with little loss of accuracy. Also the wealth of sources is somewhat obscured by incomplete footnote citations. It may be only irritating to have to leaf through a bulky edition of the *New York Times* in search of a missing page number, but cryptic references such as "Wilson Papers" and "State Department Papers" will probably prevent scholars from ever locating some of the sources in the Library of Congress or the labyrinth of the State Department decimal file.

The Latin American sections of the four volumes represent less of a contribution to knowledge than those dealing with events in the United States and Europe, except insofar as they reveal the reactions of Wilson and the American press. As Robert E. Quirk pointed out in reviewing volume III (*HAHR*, XLII, 265-266), Link's reliance on American sources led him into factual errors in dealing with Wilson's early relations with Villa and blunted Link's perceptions regarding Mexico as a whole. The brief Mexican sections of volumes IV and V are similarly derived from State and War Department files, American newspapers, and a few published Mexican documents and newspapers. Since the publication of volume II the historiography of the Mexican Revolution has developed rapidly on both sides of the border, as the Colegio de México grinds its way through the underbrush of source materials, and American historians such as Stanley R. Ross and Quirk himself bring out balanced accounts of the Revolution and its effect on Mexican-American relations. Link has made little or no use of their publications. As for the Caribbean, Dana G. Munro's *Intervention and Dollar Diplomacy in the Caribbean, 1900-1921*, presents a better unified account of Wilson's policies than the chapters in volumes II and III of Link's biography. Nevertheless, for American politics and

American-European affairs volumes II-V of *Wilson* will long be indispensable.

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#### BACKGROUND

*La Clave de los glifos mayas.* By WOLFGANG CORDAN. Mérida, 1964. Universidad de Yucatán. Pp. 67. Paper.

*Prehistoric Maya Settlements in the Belize Valley.* By GORDON R. WILLEY, WILLIAM R. BULLARD, JR., JOHN B. GLASS, and JAMES C. GIFFORD. Cambridge, Mass., 1965. Harvard University. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Vol. LIV. Illustrations. Maps. Charts. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 589.

These two works represent two very different approaches to the problems of Maya research. The short book of Wolfgang Cordan further describes a new, personal interpretation of Maya hieroglyphs, claiming the discovery of the "key" to this difficult subject. The longer work of Willey, Bullard, Glass, and Gifford is a cooperative enterprise, the detailed report of archaeological discoveries in British Honduras extending over ten years, with a far more substantial content but making more modest claims. One represents the "breakthrough" theory of scientific advance. The other depends upon systematic accumulations of data and their cautious evaluation.

Cordan postulates an original Macro-Maya language consisting of monosyllables in the form of two consonants separated by a vowel. Survivals or derivations of these are given in modern Maya and related languages. Going back much farther in time, he identifies a common ancestral language for Maya and Chinese, the validity of which he argues in terms of word parallels between the two languages. Maya writing in his system is phonetic, with the omission of the second of the two consonants. The main portion of the book is an enumeration of glyphic elements with new interpretations based on these postulates, in some instances differing sharply from earlier readings. Cordan is making his system known only by degrees (this is his sixth short work on the subject since 1962), and it will presumably receive its test in the actual translation of Maya glyphic writing. In the present book he speaks with much certainty and conviction, but the application of this "key" and the demonstration of how much it will unlock lie in the future.