

work, but his contribution would have been greater with further research, a more comparative approach, and a broader perspective.

Ohio State University

JOHN J. TEPASKE

#### NATIONAL PERIOD

*Deutschland, Díaz und die mexikanische Revolution. Die deutsche Politik im Mexiko 1870-1920.* By FRIEDRICH KATZ. Berlin, 1964. VEB Deutscher Verlag der Wissenschaften. Schriftenreihe des Institutes für allgemeine Geschichte an der Humboldt-Universität Berlin. Vol. 9. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 515.

Friederich Katz has written considerably more than a study of German relations with Mexico. On the one hand, he aims at an understanding of Mexican history in the period from 1870 to 1920. On the other, he treats German relations with Mexico in a highly sophisticated form of diplomatic history which pays close attention to the interacting efforts of Foreign Office and business interests, what he would call imperialist penetration. That in turn leads Katz to the rivalry of the capital of all major industrial powers, a rivalry in which the Germans scored some notable successes in the Díaz period but fell well behind the United States and Great Britain. At times the theme of imperialist rivalry crowds out the German theme as Katz explains British and United States jockeying in Mexico on the basis of the rivalry of the respective oil interests. From a vantage point beyond the German catastrophe of our day, Katz is able to survey all the contenders with a disapproval that is, if anything, most critical of the German imperial representatives, whom he finds with rare exceptions to have been too steeped in prejudice for genuine understanding of Mexico. For the All Highest and his marginal notes, Katz has amply documented contempt.

Well over half of the volume deals with the years 1910-1920. As might be expected, the main themes of diplomatic relations were two: German reporting on events and sympathy for Huerta, and, once the support of the United States for the Allies became evident, attempts to find in Mexico some means of hampering American assistance in the European war. The story is given in detail and is well documented.

The parts of the volume which deal with the understanding of general Mexican history are an especially interesting series of explanations which attempt to trace the changes in economic and social struc-

ture of Mexico during the Díaz regime and the ways in which such changes affected regional and class behavior then and in the years 1910-1920. Katz explains the role of the north in terms of differential development, a much more active economic life brought about by proximity to the United States. Díaz, on the whole, emerges better than he does at the hands of many Mexican writers.

Much of Katz' writing is based upon his own wide reading in Mexican works and the syntheses of a powerful mind approaching his themes with an extensive, consciously held theoretical apparatus and with a most useful lack of respect for most shibboleths. His explanations are worth careful consideration and often open up new vistas even if one does not accept them all. American readers, coming upon the statement that Wilson's hesitations in Mexican policy at one point early in his administration were due to dispute among various business interests will reflect that our complex professor-president may also repay examination in terms of Freud and Jung. Much of the material in the volume comes from the flow of reports of German missions in Mexico. Whatever the inadequacies of the staff, there were within it men who could and did write objective and remarkably thoughtful reports on Mexican society and its economy.

If there were any doubt of the value of the German Central Archives for Mexican history, this book should dispel it. Katz has written a work of intensive scholarship, organized with clarity, and expounded in readable prose. Would that most scholarly English had the clarity of his German.

University of California, Berkeley

WOODROW BORAH

*Communism in Mexico. A Study in Political Frustration.* By KARL M. SCHMITT. Austin, 1965. University of Texas Press. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 290. \$6.00.

The Communist movement within a single country can be studied from either a national or an international perspective. The aim of such a study can be primarily that of description, or it can attempt to organize information that will help it to answer central theoretical questions. For example, how readily has the national Communist party followed shifts in the Soviet tactical line? Also, what factors account for increases and decreases in the party's following?

Karl Schmitt has oriented this study of Mexican Communism from the perspective of domestic Mexican politics and has been concerned primarily to describe the internal structure of the movement, its