

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.

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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

strengths and weaknesses, and its relations with government and labor. These emphases have not been exclusive; relations with the international Communist movement are discussed, and Professor Schmitt comments on theoretical questions as these become relevant, but the emphasis is on description. The body of the book deals with the period of the fifties (during part of which Schmitt served in the State Department), although there is a "historical" chapter, based mainly on secondary sources, which deals with the earlier period and a "postscript" which adds material through September 1964 .

On questions of theory and analysis Professor Schmitt's instincts seem to this reviewer invariably sound. He points out the fidelity of the Mexican Communist Party (PCM) to the line emanating from Moscow and discusses the movement's weaknesses as a competitor for power in the Mexican context. He appreciates the subtleties of the modified democracy in the Mexican single-party system. He carefully distinguishes among PCM members, ex-PCM members, the various types of front groups, autonomous fellow-traveling organizations, and the other denizens of the Mexican far left. Schmitt's concept of "the Mexican Communist movement" seems to the reviewer particularly apt in delimiting the scope of his study. In using it he avoids the much less useful approaches of the conservative to whom "pro-Communist" means anyone left of the political center, or of the conscientious liberal who regards a person as a "Communist" only if he carries a party card in his wallet.

The book reflects the painstaking accumulation of data from fragmentary and ephemeral sources over a period of years, and thus constitutes a valuable work of reference. Professor Schmitt has been able to use partisan sources, both pro and anti, and discount their bias suitably. Yet while the book's merits clearly outweigh its defects, the defects are there, too. There are gaps in the story, and points at which it becomes blurred and inconclusive. The book, moreover, is curiously disjointed. Often, passages seem affixed to the preceding pages without any attempt being made to relate them . Thus a front organization or a person may be introduced anew each time it or he is mentioned, even if it was last discussed only on the previous page. This repetitiveness can become exasperating, as when the expropriation of the Cananea Cattle Company is described four or five times within 30 pages, or when the same item of information is given both in the text and in a footnote at the bottom of the same page (p. 159). Clearly, his copy editor has not served Professor Schmitt well, and there are solecisms throughout the text which also suggest hasty copy

editing, although some appear to be the author's responsibility. Nor is the indexing altogether satisfactory: for example, Paula Medrano de Encina is listed under neither M nor E, but D. This reviewer would have preferred, in addition, a more explicit treatment of key theoretical issues and greater integration of the various themes of the book. Nevertheless, the book was well worth writing, and it adds measurably to our knowledge of the subject with which it deals.

The general picture that emerges is of an orthodox Communist party whose membership is pathetic in its numerical insignificance, its dumb loyalty to Moscow, its harassment by the government, and the absolute ineffectualness of its political activity. Associated with the party is a profusion of less orthodox but equally committed fellow-travelers, among whom the figure of Vicente Lombardo Toledano stands out—more able, more prestigious, more skillful in working within the framework of the Mexican political system, but in the long run hardly more effective. The final element of the picture is a government which, at least until recently, has combined full toleration of deviant opinion with swift suppression of behavior threatening public order, in a manner close to the spirit of the Supreme Court's opinion in *Yates vs. U. S.*, and striking a balance between order and freedom somehow more favorable to either than the United States government has managed to achieve. Professor Schmitt concludes that the Communist movement in Mexico is likely to remain ineffectual unless a major depression occurs or the pressure of population increase becomes extreme.

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Central America. By MARIO RODRÍGUEZ. Englewood Cliffs, N. J., 1965. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Spectrum Series. Maps. Notes. Index. Pp. 178. \$4.95.

Professor Rodríguez has chosen the interpretive essay as his method of explaining Central American history. As he well knows, the application of this method to the history of the five republics presents a risk far greater than when applied, say, to United States history. In view of this, why did he accept the risk? Probably because he believed that he could write something superior to what is now available. He has done this, but he has done it under the needless burden of trite phrases and clumsy transitions.

The opening and closing chapters are the most provocative. In each there is a tendency to ascribe to President John F. Kennedy (to