

Foreign Enterprise in Colombia. By SEYMOUR W. WURFEL. Chapel Hill, 1965. University of North Carolina Press. Tables. Notes. Index. Pp. 563. \$10.00.

This large volume is the second in a global series planned by the American Society of International Law under the general title of *Studies in Foreign Investment and International Law*. The first in the series dealt with India; others will include Mexico, Japan, and Nigeria. The countries selected so far suggest that the publishers of the series have given priority to those retarded nations offering the best prospects of economic progress. Colombia and Mexico, apparently considered more promising than other countries of Latin America, probably should feel elated.

Professor Wurfel and his associates have thoroughly explored the economic history of Colombia during the two decades following 1945. Their volume is divided into three major parts: (1) Colombia's basic assets and liabilities; (2) Colombian development activities promoting investment; (3) Colombian legal institutions and their impact on private investment. The last of the three parts is longer than the other two. The main body of the book and its annexes contain significant statistical data and an excellent small map.

The study is obviously designed for trade and investment experts, but others will find it useful for reference purposes. The index is not exhaustive; the numerous alphabetical agencies, Colombian and foreign, perplex the reader; and the conclusions seem more optimistic than the facts presented actually warrant. Could this divergence be explained by the tone of the many sources examined and cited? Perhaps bureaucratic promulgations have been given too much weight! Nevertheless, this volume is an important contribution to the economic history of Colombia and clearly the result of industrious and sustained research.

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J. FRED RIPPY

Peru in Four Dimensions. By DAVID A. ROBINSON. Lima, 1964. American Studies Press. Tables. Maps. Bibliography. Pp. 424. \$10.00.

The American Studies Press has recently been established in Lima with the objective of publishing works in English on western South America. This first effort, by David A. Robinson, while not pretentious in appearance, is by far the best book of a comprehensive nature on contemporary Peru. *Peru in Four Dimensions* is primarily a

geographic and economic description and analysis with an overriding concern for the problems facing Peru as a result of demographic explosion. This is the sort of book we might expect from a team of specialists. With no particular disciplinary axe to grind, however, the author has done a good job of intelligibly presenting such diverse and complex topics as the significance of the Humboldt Current, "demographic transition," and the history of inflation in Peru. Considering that Robinson is not a geographer, he has given an unexpected but valuable emphasis to the physical basis of agriculture, industry, and population distribution and has devoted about one fourth of the book to climate, landforms, geology, hydrology, vegetation, and soils.

While the author is intimately acquainted with Peru, he has reinforced his own impressions and interpretations with long quotations from well-known travelers and scholars such as Isaiah Bowman, Antonio Raimondi, John Rowe, and Allan Holmberg and from official sources such as the United Nations. A large amount of recent statistical material is presented in simplified tabular form, and there are twenty useful maps. A few photographs might have been added to give the reader a greater feel for the land and people. The book is unfortunately marred by a large number of typographical errors, mainly the result, I understand, of a publishing venture in English in which almost no one except the author spoke English.

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Historia argentina contemporánea, 1862-1930. Vol. I: Historia de las Presidencias. 2 sections. Prepared by the ACADEMIA NACIONAL DE LA HISTORIA. Buenos Aires, 1965. Librería "El Ateneo" Editorial. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 471, 429.

The appearance of the first volume (in two sections) of *Historia argentina contemporánea, 1862-1930* is a noteworthy event in Argentine historiography. The project, sponsored by the Argentine Academia Nacional de la Historia, was conceived by the late Ricardo Levene and since his death has been carried forward by subsequent presidents and other distinguished members of the Academia. It is a continuation of the fourteen-volume *Historia de la nación argentina* (Buenos Aires, 1937-1950), edited by Levene, which carried Argentine history to the definitive organization of the Republic in 1862. This volume contains separate chapters for each of the sixteen presidential administrations between 1862 and 1930, and the emphasis is primarily although not exclusively on administrative and political history.