

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.

The book also includes a succinct account of the Paraguayan War by Colonel (Ret.) Augusto G. Rodríguez, a career soldier who turned able historian after his enforced retirement under the Perón regime. The remaining three volumes, now under preparation, will stress institutional and cultural history, economic and social evolution, and the history of the provinces and districts making up the Argentine nation.

The list of authors responsible for the specific chapters reads like a *Who's Who* of Argentine history. Levene (Mitre), Rodríguez, Alberto Palcos (Sarmiento), Carlos Heras (Avellaneda), Armando Braun Menéndez (Roca, both terms), Ricardo R. Caillet-Bois (Juárez Celman), Enrique Ruiz Guiñazu (Pellegrini), Roberto Levillier (Uriburu), Raúl A. Molina (Alvear), and Roberto Etchepareborda (Yrigoyen, second term) are among the outstanding *valores* of Argentine historiography. In general their approach tends to follow the "classical school" as modified by the research of the more objective revisionists. One doubts that the "hard line" revisionists, the glorifiers of Juan Manuel Rosas and Francisco Solano López in the Plata area and in the United States will be happy with the opening chapters on the Mitre and Sarmiento administrations and the Paraguayan War.

In such a cooperative effort there inevitably tend to be low as well as high spots, but the general level is quite high. Certainly this is a major contribution on a period that has been relatively little explored, largely because of the limited accessibility of official and private archives for the post-1862 years. Even this factor, however, hardly explains the very scant treatment (twenty-two pages) accorded the first administration of Hipólito Yrigoyen (1916-1922). The achievements and, perhaps even more important, the failures of those six years were to leave a deep imprint on post-1930 Argentina. Yrigoyen's conduct of Argentine foreign relations during the crucial years of World War I and its immediate aftermath, for example, merits more than the two pages which it has been accorded—no matter how excellent those two pages may be from a purely literary standpoint. Fortunately the account of Yrigoyen's second administration (October 1928-September 1930) concludes the volume with one of its most useful chapters.

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*Reseña histórica del ejército argentino (1862-1930)*. By COLONEL AUGUSTO G. RODRÍGUEZ. Buenos Aires, 1964. Secretaría de Guerra. Dirección de Estudios Históricos. Año. I Núm. I Serie II. Bibliography. Pp. 144. Paper.

The Argentine army has come increasingly under the scrutiny of