

standard reference on a given topic is reissued, especially if it has been out of print for years. Winner of the coveted Justin Winsor Prize (1914) and originally presented as a doctoral dissertation at Stanford University, this honored work was published under the auspices of the American Historical Association in 1916. By utilizing the extensive documentation of the Public Record Office in London and by employing a more critical historical approach, Miss Williams improved upon the pioneer studies of Ira D. Travis. Her objective exposition of the controversial 1850 treaty and its hectic aftermath caught the attention of reviewers from the beginning; indeed, a half century later, that section remains the most vital contribution of her book. Less definitive, because of the lack of documentation available to her, the last two chapters treat Anglo-American negotiations from 1860 to 1914 in just fifty pages.

Miss Williams painted the same uncomplimentary picture of British activities in Central America that Travis had sketched, charging the Foreign Office with a deliberate plan of territorial acquisition and extension of English influence throughout the area. British agents, for example, were responsible for the dissolution of the Central American Republic (1823-1839); and they consistently fought the liberal-unionist movement in subsequent years, siding with the *Serviles*, or Conservatives, of Central America. Though the controversy over the nature of Britain's role in Central America is still alive today, we can safely say that Miss Williams' interpretation is now outdated. Reviewing British policy in its European context from 1846 to 1860, Professor Richard Van Alstyne convincingly refuted or qualified the former imputations of British imperialism in a trio of articles published in the late 1930s. Others have done the same for the Central American context. In the *HAHR* (August 1960), Professor Robert A. Naylor argued that the commercial interests of Englishmen in the area, not political or

strategic factors, guided British policy in Central America. Professor Thomas Karnes in *The Failure of Union: Central America, 1824-1960* (Chapel Hill, 1961) sharply attacked the Williams interpretation, denying that Frederick Chatfield had anything to do with the dissolution of the Republic or with the anti-unionist movement in subsequent years. My own study, *A Palmerstonian Diplomat in Central America: Frederick Chatfield, Esq.* (Tucson, 1964), supports Karnes' assertion with regard to the Republic. With these qualifications in mind, Miss Williams' book is still useful.

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Cuba before Castro. An Economic Appraisal. By PHILIP C. NEWMAN. Ridgewood, N. J., 1965. Foreign Studies Institute. Tables. Charts. Pp. 123. Paper.

This is a curious volume. It was copyrighted in 1965, but the text contains no indication of having been written after 1959, except for a statement in the introduction that the possible destruction of records in Cuba might make it subsequently impossible to reconstruct the recent past. If there is a reference to "the present government" in the text, it is to Batista's and not to Castro's regime. If there is comment about a contract that has "recently" been negotiated, it normally refers to an action in 1957 or 1958.

Keeping this caveat constantly in mind, the reader will find much useful economic information in the slender volume. By design the study contains almost nothing of politics. It does give a great deal of information, soberly and factually presented and with little or no interpretation, about the nature of the Cuban economy, the foreign and domestic investment picture in the island, the history of "joint ventures," etc. The many statistical tables are more helpful than the occasional charts which, because of poor drafting, are difficult to interpret.

An interesting and useful feature of the study is the seven case histories which conclude it. They include studies of the Nicaro nickel development, the Cuban Telephone Company, the Habana Hilton Hotel, and four other enterprises of recent (i.e. pre-1959) development. Spanish words are misspelled in a few instances and accents are uniformly omitted.

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The Family and Population Control. A Puerto Rican Experiment in Social Change. By REUBEN HILL, J. MAYONE STYCOS, and KURT W. BACK. New Haven, 1965. College and University Press. Appendices. Index. Pp. 481. Paper. \$3.45.

The appearance of this volume in a softbound edition will certainly be welcome in light of the growing concern over demographic problems in Latin America and elsewhere. The authors and their many collaborators discuss Puerto Rico's demographic characteristics, set forth their research project and discuss the methods used, describe the results, and then design and carry out an experiment based on the research findings promoting family planning. They report the outcome of the experiment and make suggestions for the establishment of official programs and policy towards population control.

This is an important work for several reasons. It furnishes an example of sociological methodology which includes an actual testing of hypotheses under field conditions, producing a variety of conclusions and data which will be useful for comparative work elsewhere. It also explores the validity of certain "time-honored" assumptions concerning cultural values and population control in Latin America, such as the importance of *machismo* and the influence of the Roman Catholic Church. It is this latter area that historians and others not concerned with the major focus of this work will find most interesting.

The Andean Republics. Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru. By WILLIAM WEBER JOHNSON and THE EDITORS OF *LIFE*. New York, 1965. Time, Inc. *LIFE* World Library. Illustrations. Appendix. Index. Pp. 160. \$2.95.

This volume, the most recent of *LIFE World Library*, is an excellent work in every respect. The end-paper maps are readable and enlightening. The black and white photographs are attractive, and some of the many color pictures are surpassing in their beauty.

A work of this type cannot, of course, go into great detail; it must necessarily summarize. A careful reading has failed to disclose an unjustified generalization or a mistake in facts. Only one question of any importance arises: Is not Colombia also an "Andean Republic?" Since it is omitted, the title might more properly be *Four Andean Republics*.

The content includes brief sketches of the Indian background and the region's geography, the conquest by Spain, the colonial period, the revolution, and brief histories of the four republics. The most rewarding sections are the last two, "A Cultural Quest" and "Agitation from the Center." The latter describes current conditions and suggests possible future developments.

For one who knows little of Spanish-Indian Latin America and wishes to learn something of it in a general sense, the reviewer can suggest no book superior to this. *LIFE*, the author, and those who assisted him are to be congratulated.

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Un testigo en la alborada de Chile, 1826-1829. By EDUARDO POEPPIG. Translated by CARLOS KELLER. Santiago, 1960. Editorial Zig Zag. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 507.

This is a profusely illustrated and excellently edited translation of the first volume or Chilean portion of *Reise in Chile, Peru und auf dem Amazonenstromen während der Jahre, 1827-1832*