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University of Connecticut

FLOYD W. DOTSON

El desarrollo cultural en la liberación de América Latina. By SERGIO BAGÚ and HUMBERTO GUSSONI. Montevideo, 1967. Biblioteca de Cultura Universitaria. Tables. Appendix. Pp. 142. Paper. \$170.00 (Urug.).

This is the first volume of the Biblioteca de Cultura Universitaria series, published by the Fundación de Cultura Universitaria. It is a compilation of lectures delivered by the authors at the Universidad de la República in Montevideo during the 1967 summer session. The authors' objective is to examine how under certain circumstances culture can act either as an instrument of international domination or one of national liberation.

Sergio Bagú, who was responsible for chapters one through eight, analyzes culture and technology in society to determine what conditions or circumstances will help Latin America to improve its position. He views culture and technology as instruments for international order and recognizes the close interrelationship between a technological culture and scientific research. He says: "Sustained industrial expansion requires an advanced educational infrastructure: a high percentage of children in elementary school, young people in high school and in universities. These societies are those that have a greater percentage of the population dedicated to teaching and—to finance this activity—a high percentage also of national product set aside for this purpose" (p. 20).

Bagú classifies the nations of the world into two general categories—industrialized and nonindustrialized. Latin America is subdivided further into three groups: the industrializing societies (Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile), those with light industry (Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba), and the unindustrialized societies (Central America, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay).

Chapters nine through fourteen were prepared by Humberto Gussoni. Here the emphasis is placed on socio-economic considerations: the demographic explosion, urbanization, illiteracy, and types of economic endeavor. Gussoni documents his six chapters by frequent reference to the thirty-six tables in the appendix. He is concerned with *types* of economic activity of various groups in each Latin American country and compares them with the United States

and Canada. Repeatedly, he categorizes Latin America into three groups: 1) Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Bolivia; 2) Brazil, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Colombia, Paraguay, Ecuador, and Peru; 3) Panama, Cuba, Venezuela, Chile, and Uruguay.

Gussoni also studies the educational systems of Latin America, which he views as transmitting culture, eliminating illiteracy, and making possible scientific research. He relates population increase to illiteracy and levels of educational achievement to economic development. He also considers expenditures for education and the absorptive capacity of the individual countries.

The overall quality varies. The first eight chapters tend at times to be superficial and repetitious. Chapters one and two are introductory, and chapter eight is a résumé of the first seven.

The book reads like a series of printed lectures. At times there is evidence that they were taped and typed without revision. For example, at one point Bagú remarks: "I want to read to you from a United Press news clipping that refers sufficiently directly to this topic. It is a news item published yesterday in *La Prensa* of Buenos Aires" (p. 80).

In general the second half, prepared by Gussoni, is considerably better. On pp. 91 and 92 he does fail to indicate with quotation marks a direct quotation from the *Boletín Económico para América Latina*, and the sources for the tables on p. 96 and the statistics on p. 99 are not given. In the index, however, the sources appear (Cepal, United Nations, UNESCO, etc.).

Both sections lack footnotes and a bibliography, and tables six and seven in the appendix are in reversed order.

University of Alabama

WILLIAM R. LUX

William Hickling Prescott. A Biography. By C. HARVEY GARDINER. Introduction by ALLAN NEVINS. Austin, 1969. University of Texas Press. Illustration. Notes. Index. Pp. xxi, 366. \$7.50.

The American Renaissance of the nineteenth century expressed itself with particular brilliance in historical writing. A group of men, possessed of superior literary gifts and a passion for research, left to posterity a rich legacy. No one contributed more to that treasure than William Hickling Prescott.

Prescott's writing has been the subject of much study, but Prescott, the person, has had to wait until now for a thoroughgoing appraisal.