

Who's Who in Mexican Government.

Edited by MARVIN ALISKY. Tempe, Arizona, 1969. Center for Latin American Studies of Arizona State University. Bibliography. Glossary. Pp. 64. Paper.

However large, the potential market for directories like this is never-ending, for they begin to go out of date as soon as they are published, if not before. Marvin Alisky has listed 245 worthies in Mexican government with a brief biography of each. He appends the cabinet of President Díaz Ordaz, members of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, ambassadors, consuls, and state governors. The cutoff date is January 1969. Historians writing about the Díaz Ordaz period will find the booklet useful.

D. M. P.

A Leap to Arms: the Cuban Campaign

of 1898. By JACK CAMERON DIERKS. Philadelphia and New York, 1970. J. B. Lippincott Company. Maps. Notes. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 240. \$6.95.

Hanson W. Baldwin's "Great Battles of History" series has produced a number of useful monographs and at least one which achieved popular acclaim (*Hell in a Very Small Place* by Bernard B. Fall). *A Leap to Arms* is easy to read, for its author is experienced in journalism and advertising, but it is based on a few secondary sources and adds little to our knowledge of military or naval actions. It makes no effort to offset the Yankee nationalism of most earlier accounts, for after a few patronizing references in the first chapters, the Cuban revolutionaries practically disappear.

D. M. P.

Revolutionary Cuba: A Bibliographical

Guide, 1967. Edited by FERMÍN PERAZA. Coral Gables, 1969. University of Miami Press. Index. Pp. vii, 244. \$7.50.

Fermín Peraza prepared thirty-one

annual bibliographical guides for Cuba before his death as an exile in Miami during 1969. The 1967 volume, his last, is the second in the series to be published by the Center for Advanced International Studies of the University of Miami. The guide contains 911 entries arranged alphabetically by author, with many items published prior to 1967.

A shortcoming of the work is its failure to indicate criteria for selection of materials; for instance, why include *The World Almanac*? Another weakness of the Guide is its repetition of author's names in the "Analytical Index," without an alphabetical listing of most of the titles appearing in the text. On the positive side indexing by subject helps. A few of the entries are annotated, such as Dade County's auditorium schedule of coming events, 1967-1968, ("Includes Cuban Shows"), but most entries are left to the imagination of the reviewer. Should we know, for instance, what Francisco Díaz' *Anales de los Cakchequeles* is all about?

In tribute to Peraza one must conclude that his contributions to Cuban bibliography will serve as a lasting monument, for no other bibliographies on Cuba match his in comprehensiveness. Hopefully, however, future volumes in the series by the Center will show more discriminating selection, annotation, and organization.

RICHARD B. GRAY

Florida State University

Episodios de la Revolución Cubana.

By MANUEL DE LA CRUZ. La Habana, 1967. Instituto del Libro. Illustrations. Pp. 166.

This short book contains various descriptions of Cuba's Ten Years' War (1868-1878), compiled from the recollections of veterans a decade after the conflict ended by one of Cuba's leading nineteenth-century prose writers. Although still a youth at the time of the Pacto de Zanjón, Manuel de la Cruz obviously learned to understand the psychology and horror of guerrilla

warfare. Above all, he succeeds in showing the tremendous continuity of purpose and drive shown by the mambises. It is undoubtedly for this reason that José Martí enthusiastically endorsed the 1890 work as a masterpiece.

For many years de la Cruz favored autonomy (dominion status) for Cuba, largely because of his admiration for the leading members of the autonomista party, although a visit to Spain in the 1880s convinced him the Mother Country had no right to dictate Cuba's future to its people. Thus within three years of publishing *Episodios* he came around to a total rejection of any association with Spain and went into exile. Shortly thereafter he was sent on a mission to Cuba to unify the disparate revolutionary groups there, to expose the fallacy of the Autonomista position, and to size up the strength of the Spanish forces in the colony. His apparent success on all three counts earned him a post with the Cuban Revolutionary Delegation in New York before his death in 1896—he lived long enough to see Cuba embark on its 1895-1898 War of Liberation.

Most of the stories contain not only detailed and often gory accounts of the military encounters and ambushes but vivid descriptions of their physical settings as well. The characterizations of the "rebels," including the odd American mercenary ally, are also graphic. Although de la Cruz portrays the changing fortunes of this somewhat "irregular" war in such a way as to give it a sense of futility, he does leave the reader impressed with the courage and spirit of cooperation found in the average Cuban independence fighter regardless of race—factors ultimately vital to the island's quest for freedom and to the development of a viable Cubanidad.

A. J. G. KNOX

University of Calgary

Venezuela país subdesarrollado. 2nd ed. By RAMÓN A. TOVAR. Caracas,

1968. Universidad Central de Venezuela. Maps. Charts. Tables. Notes. Pp. 212. Paper. \$1.35.

Ramón A. Tovar's four studies of Venezuela's economic plight contain a wealth of statistics and an abundance of charts, but they lack a clear synthesis. Although the statistics are impressive and the charts helpful, the text is practically opaque. In the end, the reader has no way of putting the mass of information into any conceptual framework. Clearly Tovar views Venezuela's condition of underdevelopment as a function of the imbalances which he observes in the structure of its economically active population, in the organization of its agricultural sector, in the production and distribution of its electrical power, and in the salaries of its people. But nowhere does he use his massive documentation and exhaustive analysis to make broad generalizations.

Venezuela, país subdesarrollado should provide any interested student with a very useful collection of statistics, but does not fulfill the need for a lucid analysis of Venezuela's economic dilemma.

J. V. L.

La literatura chilena contemporánea.

By FERNANDO ALEGRÍA. Buenos Aires, 1968. Centro Editor de América Latina. Enciclopedia Literaria. Bibliography. Pp. 59. Paper. \$120.00 (Arg.).

The introduction of Fernando Alegría's essay on contemporary Chilean literature points out that the special position of that literature is due largely to its outstanding tradition in poetry. He categorizes three groups. The first is the post-modernists, who in poetry develop beyond the rhetoric of Rubén Darío and in prose renovate Spanish regionalism by injecting into it a more transcendental esthetic. The other two are the neo-realists, whose ideological base is sociological, and a transitional group labeled the "generation of 1950," whose preoccupations revert to