

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.

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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.

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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