

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.

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

estheticism and philosophy. Alegría admits, however, that within each group there are many writers who contradict the attempt to categorize. But categorize he does and must, for this history consists of only sixty-nine pages.

The body of the present essay is basically a distillation of Alegría's *Literatura chilena del siglo XX*. There are five chapters dealing with poetry, the novel and short story, the theater, the essay and criticism. It concludes with a one-and-a-half-page bibliography. Most authors mentioned are merely listed along with the pertinent dates of birth and death, while the work of even the most important writers is dealt with in few more words. For example, the author describes in ten lines the literary contribution of Gabriela Mistral, the Chilean Nobel Prize winner (which there was no space to mention).

In summation, the booklet is a chronological catalog of names, with some dates and titles and a survey evaluation of contemporary Chilean literature. This type of history already exists in much greater detail. Its use would be for a very quick orientation in the trends of twentieth-century Chilean literature.

R. S.

Argentina: análisis y autoanálisis.

Edited by H. ERNEST LEWALD. Buenos Aires, 1969. Editorial Sudamericana. Notes. Pp. 269. Paper.

The still largely unexamined idea of the nation as the most viable political, economic, and social unit continues to impose itself heavily on our understanding. This is especially true for Argentina, which has produced more than its share of nationalist interpretations in the past twenty-five years. Every now and then, however, a book comes forth which presents things in a broader context. This can be said of H. Ernest Lewald's book of readings, *Argentina: análisis y autoanálisis*. What Lewald recognizes is that the national community cannot be understood except in terms of its relation to

both the international and local communities of which it is an integral part. In his short but perceptive prologue he suggests that the student should establish an equilibrium between universalism and relativism in treating the nationalist theme.

The selections he offers are from the pens of those writers who generally wrote in the light of the broader context, such as José Ortega y Gasset, Ezequiel Martínez Estrada, Bernardo Canal Feijoo, Enrique Anderson-Imbert, and Héctor A. Murena. His selections are well chosen, and they provide an excellent analysis of the universalist and relativist positions from a humanist point of view. Perhaps because of Lewald's fidelity to his discipline, he includes only preeminent men of letters and omits the writings of those social scientists who most clearly represent a relativist perspective. For these reasons, students of nationalism will find neither a comprehensive picture nor much that is new in this book. Nonetheless, we are grateful to Lewald for making key selections more readily available.

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Partidos y poder en la Argentina moderna (1930-46). 2nd ed. By ALBERTO CIRIA. Buenos Aires, 1968. Editorial Jorge Álvarez. Charts. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. 379. Paper.

This important political analysis of contemporary Argentina has come out in a second edition only four years after the original publication date (reviewed *HAHR*, August 1966, pp. 337-338). The first nine chapters are identical save for an occasional phrase. The additions are several items in the bibliography, a detailed table of contents, and a final chapter, "Del pasado al presente."

In this last chapter, Ciria reviews his preceding evidence and suggests its relation to the constitutional crisis in which Argentina now finds itself. The implicit fear is of "un régimen que enfatiza la autoridad, el orden y la