

*Encyclopedia of Latin America*. Edited by HELEN DELPAR. New York, 1974. McGraw-Hill. Maps. Tables. Illustrations. Appendices. Bibliography. Pp. ix, 651. Cloth. \$29.95.

Embracing the eighteen Spanish-speaking republics plus Brazil, Haiti, and Puerto Rico (but excluding all other French, Dutch and English speaking areas of the Caribbean plus Guyana, Surinam, and French Guiana) and covering various aspects of the history, geography, industry and culture of each of the countries included in some 1,600 alphabetically arranged entries, this encyclopedia should prove very useful to anyone seeking concise information on these countries.

Included are general articles on each country, its institutions, politics, business, industries, and significant individuals in a wide variety of endeavors both living and dead. Emphasis is placed on events and personalities of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However, the more significant events, institutions and individuals of the prequest, conquest, and colonial times are also included. Unlike some works of this kind, only a very limited number of terms are defined. This is a reference tool for information primarily on these countries and their people, not a dictionary of words and terms, although a few of these are included.

All entries are signed by the individual author and the more general articles present bibliographical citations to direct the reader to additional information. One hundred and seven scholars, many of them young people, plus the editor Helen Delpar and her advisers, Charles Griffin and Lewis Hanke, have produced a useful introduction to the many facets of Latin American life.

The maps are disappointing for they are mere sketches of the outline of a country or area. Hence anyone looking for maps will have to look elsewhere. The illustrations are limited to portraits of a few individuals. There is no list of maps or of illustrations and no index. Generally an index to this type of work appears superfluous when entries are arranged alphabetically. However, in this particular work a variety of topics are entered under a single general heading. Therefore the user is forced to try various entries to find the information sought. An index would have facilitated the search.

Nevertheless this book will be useful to many in business, professional, and academic fields and is recommended as the best and most up-to-date current source for ready information on these countries mentioned at the beginning of this review.

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