

on the attitudes toward life and death of the Spanish poet, García Lorca, and the famous Nobel Prize winning poet of Chile, Pablo Neruda. And last is Sara Fishmen's discussion of humor in the poetry of the Brazilian Carlos Drummond de Andrade.

This collection, taken as a whole, is more likely to impress the reader with the seriousness of Spanish and Latin American research in Israel's seats of learning than to appeal to the interest of anyone but the highly specialized student.

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*Soviet Penetration of Latin America.* By LEON GOURE and MORRIS ROTHENBERG. Coral Gables, Florida, 1975. Center for Advanced International Studies, University of Miami. Tables. Index. Pp. vii, 204. Paper.

Despite its rather unfortunate title (suggesting a carnal violation which has in fact not been achieved), *Soviet Penetration of Latin America* is a thorough, balanced and impressively documented study of Soviet perceptions, policies and activities in Latin America. The authors note that some years back the Soviets were frozen out of Latin America and mesmerized by "geographic fatalism"—i.e. the belief that Latin America was too close to the U.S. and too remote from the Soviet Union for effective Soviet initiatives. The emergence of Cuba as a socialist state broke the spell of "geographic fatalism," however, and the past fifteen years have seen the relatively dramatic growth of Soviet presence and influence in the area—dramatic in the sense that having started almost from zero, they now have diplomatic ties with most of the Latin American states, increasing trade relations and a satellite in the form of Castro's Cuba.

The authors trace the growth of Soviet presence throughout the hemisphere, but their principal focus is on Soviet relations with Cuba, Chile and the progressive military governments (especially Peru and Panama). They break fresh ground in describing and analyzing the Soviet assessment of what went wrong in Chile. Here the Soviets are reported to place much of the blame on the radical Left and to insist on the correctness of the slower and more moderate approach advocated by Moscow, though they question whether or not this approach was correctly implemented in Chile. Beyond these general observations, however, there seems to be little agreement among Soviet and orthodox communist analysts as to how the Chilean ex-

periment might have been saved. Some commentators have suggested, for example, that the Allende government did not do enough to co-opt and circumscribe the Army. Others have pointed out that such efforts might well have alarmed anti-leftist elements in the Army and triggered an even earlier reaction. In this, as in other aspects of the situation, they seem to feel they were damned if they did and equally damned if they did not. Apparently at a loss for a precise answer as to what might have been done, one Soviet commentator is reported to have noted (rather sadly, one might imagine) that “under conditions of the peaceful development of revolution, it is probably easier to seize power than to hold it” (p. 117).

Turning to the hemisphere as a whole, the authors conclude that the basic Soviet objective is not to establish new communist states; rather it is to undercut U.S. influence in the area (see p. vi). How meaningful that approach may be is something else again. The Soviets may, for example, champion the nationalization of the Panama Canal all they wish (see p. vii); they nonetheless remain outside the equation. The canal issue would exist even if Moscow did not and its solution (or absence of one) depends upon the actions and decisions of the U.S. and Panamanian governments, not upon anything the Soviets say or do. Quite rightly, then, the authors stress (and it is perhaps their most important conclusion) that despite its relatively increased presence and influence, the Soviet Union is still a minor factor in hemispheric affairs (see p. 199).

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#### COLONIAL AND INDEPENDENCE PERIODS

*Race, Class and Politics in Colonial Mexico, 1610–1670.* By J. I. ISRAEL. New York, 1975. Oxford University Press. Table. Maps. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiii, 305. Cloth.

J. I. Israel presents a study of the stresses and their effect on Mexican society in the mid-colonial period. Allan Nevins wrote that “every generation has to have history rewritten for it.” This book does not fulfill that prescription. The material has long been known. J. Lloyd Mecham and Charles Gibson have reported on the Church in New Spain and its internecine struggles, and François Chevalier on life in the colony, to name but a few of the well-known sources. Israel evidences a greater perception of the divergent, heterogeneous population and psyches of the various groups than other English