

yet having compartmentalized their lives. As rebels they were no one's tools. Most of their priests fled to the cities for safety; the conservative hacendados sided with their enemies. They accepted military direction from a few middle-class laymen but did not follow them blindly. Their ultimate loyalty was to a clergy whose capitulation to a hostile state fractured the Cristeros' world vision. By the end of the Lázaro Cárdenas era the integration of rural Mexico into the new order, primarily by the vehicle of the ejido, was irreversible.

Meyer's study is a triumph of multidisciplinary scholarship. His acknowledged affection for his subjects—he dedicates *La Cristiada* to Aurelio Acevedo, a Zacatecas Cristero chieftain who aided him in his research—may put some readers on their guard, but his conclusions regarding the Cristeros and their movement are compatible with his data. His treatment of the Cristeros' opponents will be more controversial. The problem of the Mexican revolution's nature is far from solved and many specialists will hesitate to accept such assertions that Calle's administration was not revolutionary, or that it is contradictory to say that both the Zapatistas and the Red Battalions could have been revolutionists. As for the church leaders, one may deplore their callous stance toward the Cristeros, but it can be argued that the 1929 *modus vivendi* arrangement was a realistic solution. For while the author's evidence concerning the rebellion's magnitude is persuasive, I am less convinced than he that the Cristeros could have overthrown the government or forced a settlement very different from the one reached. But these are speculative matters. On its central topic, the Cristeros, I believe the study is unassailable. In both content and method it is a magnificent contribution.

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The Politics of Hostility: Castro's Revolution and United States Policy.

By LYNN DARRELL BENDER. Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, 1975. Inter American University Press. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiv, 156. Cloth. \$7.95; Paper. \$2.95.

Most books about the Cuban-American relationship focus either on the historical record, emphasizing the critical role Cuba has played in the formulation of American foreign policy, or assess the deeper meanings of the dramatic years from 1959 to 1962. Professor Bender devotes one brief chapter to the historical record to 1959, and another, more analytical, chapter to the deterioration in United States-Cuban

affairs under Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson. The author assigns the remainder of his work to an analysis of the Cuban-American antagonism from the viewpoint of the United States, Cuba, and the Soviet Union.

The author's thesis is that the danger of Castroite subversion in the hemisphere has lessened considerably but that official American policy still regards Castro as a menace, a stepchild of Moscow, and a violator of inter-American principles. In fact, as Professor Bender points out, the United States obdurately refuses to repudiate its hard-line policy toward Castro, though it has apparently relinquished plans to overthrow him, and clings to the policy of economic and political isolation despite evidence of Castro's inability to foment revolution or the Soviet Union's disinclination to exploit Cuba as a base for communizing the hemisphere.

In the final chapters the author applies his experience as a foreign service officer and political scientist in assessing the possibilities and costs of a Cuban-American rapprochement. To no one's surprise he concludes that ideological rigidity and previous policies will make it difficult for either side to make the first move. (In the most recent session of the Organization of American States, however, the United States privately indicated it would accept a Latin American move to remove the ban on Castro's government.) Major obstacles in any reconciliation are sugar, claims against the Castro government for seizure of property, the status of Guantánamo, and, of course, the proud, defiant, and vocal exiles in the United States who dream of returning to a Cuba *sans* Castro.

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Great Britain and the Caribbean, 1901-1913: A Study in Anglo-American Relations. By WARREN G. KNEER. East Lansing, 1975. Michigan State University Press. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xvii, 242. Cloth. \$12.50.

This monograph will interest students of great power relationships in the Caribbean. Grounded in the appropriate manuscript records, it examines the development of British foreign policy in response to North American hegemony after the war with Spain. Professor Kneer rejects the view that British leaders eagerly turned over their commercial and financial interests to the benevolent protection of the United States. On the contrary, he shows that a large measure of hesitation and ambivalence marked their behavior.