

in 1967 to less than 14 billion barrels in 1971–73), has nevertheless increased its oil revenue by exacting ever higher tax rates from the multinational petroleum companies and by participating in the OPEC cartel.

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*U.S. Foreign Policy and the Third World Peasant: Land Reform in Asia and Latin America.* By GARY L. OLSON. New York, 1974. Praeger Publishers. Tables. Pp. x, 153. Cloth. \$14.00.

This short but decisive book examines the relationship between land reform, development, and U.S. foreign policy. It argues that U.S. objectives regarding land reform, tied to more general issues of political stabilization and economic investment abroad, seek to maintain the status quo by satiating peasants through partial measures like land settlement projects.

According to Olson, a “consistent” political strategy among U.S. officials began in Japan after the war when occupying American forces under MacArthur sought to contain internal dissension which could undermine the post-war efforts of an indigenous elite. He reaches similar conclusions about Taiwan and Korea, although noting little congruence between policy-making in Washington and crisis decision-making among U.S. military forces there. The Philippine experience, he argues, taught the U.S. that true land reform is a two-edged sword that should be wielded conservatively when insurgency (Huk) runs high and quickly sheathed when the dangers of rural militancy subside. Finally, he uses the “Latin American case” to demonstrate the difficulties in attempting to “control” land reform as part of U.S. foreign policy.

Olson suggests that political modernization achieved through land reform in Mexico and Bolivia became the model for U.S. behavior in post-Castro Latin America, but that slow realization of the revolutionary contexts in which those reforms took place soon relegated calls for land reform to political rhetoric and/or limited social reformism. Authentic land reform, he writes, is a zero-sum proposition not so easily foisted on agrarian elites. It requires a total restructuring of national political and economic systems. U.S. policy, in contrast, works haltingly toward “. . . variations on land reform that seek not to alter the existing system but to guarantee its survival” (p. 92). The picture that emerges is of calculated management of land reform

issues in developing nations by U.S. officials intent on stabilizing support for friendly governments in areas of U.S. involvement.

Olson's general conclusions seem appropriate to the data. However, more specific comparisons between policy objectives and outcomes in different Latin American countries would have been useful, as would more attention to the internal dynamics in each case. Lumping together the ideas of Samuel Huntington, Kenneth Karst, and Eric Wolf to conclude that peasants become revolutionary because of lack of land (p. 6) masks the subtleties of Wolf's argument and fails to explain why some landless peasants revolt and others do not. Structural similarities obviously exist, but peasants differ from nation to nation and internally according to variations in labor arrangements. Sharecropping, tenant farming, smallholding, and wage labor each produce different needs, resulting in different expressions of want, and hence in different ideologies. The "powerlessness" of the masses to which Olson refers in the truly revolutionary conclusions to this interesting study is, at one level, directly related to those ideologies. To play with these in the prevailing climates of political repression could prove more dangerous immediately to the peasantries themselves than are the very real horrors of their present situation.

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*Spanish-speaking Groups in the United States.* By JOHN H. BURMA. Detroit, 1974 (1954). Blaine Ethridge Books. Maps. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 214. Cloth.

*Unwanted Mexican Americans in the Great Depression: Repatriation Pressures, 1929-1939.* By ABRAHAM HOFFMAN. Foreword by JULIAN NAVA. Tucson, 1974. The University of Arizona Press. Maps. Illustrations. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xv, 207. Cloth \$9.75; Paper \$4.75.

*The Uses of the Media by the Chicano Movement: A Study in Minority Access.* By FRANCISCO J. LEWELS, JR. New York, 1974. Praeger Publishers. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xiii, 185. Cloth.

The increased emphasis on racial and ethnic minorities has motivated scholars to examine the Mexican experience in the United States. The result has been a number of studies on different aspects of Mexican-American life. Covering the fields of history, sociology,