

past. He is a lecturer in archaeology at the Museum of Natural History in New York and for two decades has guided an annual field trip in Meso-America. The last few pages of the book contain concise advice on routes to the sites as well as suggestions on clothing and guide services. Though not intended as such, this volume will also give pleasure to the armchair traveller and serve as a useful introduction to the Maya for the serious scholar.

Bennett's *Maya Epic* flies high above objective evidence to produce some imaginative interpretations of Mayan history. Bennett is an "engineer-geologist" who became interested in early American civilizations while practicing his profession in Latin America. The author presents two novel theories which rest on slim evidence and a powerful imagination. First, he postulates that the Olmec were in fact the earliest Maya. Upon this base, he then postulates a separate ethnic identity for the lower and ruling classes of all later Maya.

Richard Thompson's *Winds of Tomorrow*, on the other hand, is a study of contemporary ethnic boundaries in a Mayan community and rests on solid objective evidence and a most scientific analysis. The author presents a valuable study of the dynamics involved in maintaining ethnic boundaries while allowing individuals to change their ethnic identities in the community of Ticul. In both a synchronic and diachronic analysis, Thompson traces the evolution of the earlier Maya-Hispanic division of society to the contemporary status hierarchy of the subordinate Mestizo (Maya Indian based) and the Hispanic dominant group. This excellent study will long serve as a model for future research on ethnicity.

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The United States and the Development of the Puerto Rican Status Question, 1936-1968. By SURENDRA BHANA. Lawrence, 1975. The University Press of Kansas. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. x, 290. Cloth.

Since 1898, Puerto Rico has been striving to discover a political relationship with the United States that will be realistic. Various insular political parties have been created and have adapted their strategy to the achievement of either statehood within or independence of the United States, even as the current system (*estado libre asociado*) remains in power and searches for greater autonomy within the Fed-

eral structure. From the turn of the century appointed governors had mostly sharpened Puerto Rican sensitivities. Then in 1944 large electoral majorities were won by the "Populares" (Partido Popular Democrático), under the able leadership of Luis Muñoz Marín. His hegira from independence to commonwealth status was a realistic approach to a complex situation; he shrewdly left open a future option by the people for statehood or independence. He became the chief architect of the Puerto Rican planning from 1936 to 1968.

Meantime the United States Congress in 1950 passed Public Law 600, by which Puerto Rico was to remain an "unincorporated territory," while in search of a compact, a political agreement with the United States. In 1951 Puerto Ricans voted for delegates to a Constitutional Convention, in which 70 seats were won by the *Populares*, 15 by *Estadistas*, and 7 by the Socialists. A year later the insular people, under the expert guidance of Muñoz Marín, voted for the commonwealth.

Since then thorny constitutional questions have been continually raised. Can the United States Congress unilaterally change the compact? Is Puerto Rico an autonomous political entity? In the United Nations, Puerto Rico's autonomy was accepted and no further surveillance by the world organization was required. In 1967 another referendum on status was submitted to the people of Puerto Rico, who voted 60.5% for commonwealth, 38.9% for statehood and 0.6% for independence. Of course, many *independentistas* abstained from the plebiscite; moreover, their own political fragmentation has made them ineffective.

In this complex relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, all insular Puerto Ricans have obviously felt a pride in their own culture and insular history. In this is fused the question of language, desire for self-identity and *dignidad*. Simultaneously, other realistic political and economic considerations warn them to maintain a relation with the U.S. Industrialization has almost irrevocably tied Puerto Rico's economy to that of the United States; many benefits of Federal citizenship without paying Federal taxes will not be easily relinquished by the insular people. The fear that Marxism in the Caribbean may have success in an independent Puerto Rico has not been suggested by the author, but it has always seemed to me a real concern of most insular Puerto Ricans. The foreseeable status of Puerto Rico will be self-government in association with the United States. The degree of self-government remains a moot question.

Surendra Bhana has written a readable, well-organized and painstakingly scholarly book. His synthesis is based on a careful analysis

of materials drawn from both primary and secondary sources. For the serious student of Puerto Rico this is a real contribution. There will always be room for further study of this unique compact between the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Professor Bhana has done an excellent job in analysis, moderation of view, and scholarly writing.

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Puerto Rico and the Puerto Ricans. By CLIFFORD A. HAUBERG. Foreword by MICHAEL O'REILLY. New York, 1974. Twayne Publishers, Inc. Map. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 211. Cloth. \$8.95.

Notes on the Puerto Rican Revolution. An Essay on American Dominance and Caribbean Resistance. By GORDON K. LEWIS. New York, 1974. Monthly Review Press. Pp. 288. Cloth. \$9.50.

Since 1963 when Gordon Lewis' landmark study, *Puerto Rico: Freedom and Power in the Caribbean*, revealed the cracks in the edifice of Operation Bootstrap, a significant body of critical literature has appeared in response to deepening problems: an unemployment rate of between 15 and 30 percent in part determined by the flight of labor-intensive industry in the face of workers' demands for application of the U.S. minimum wage and the proliferation of capital-intensive and environmentally hazardous industry in petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals, the disappearance of Puerto Rican traditions through the penetration of U.S. mass media and the tourist industry as well as profound changes in class structure, and, finally, the forced exodus of over one-third of the Puerto Rican population to the urban ghettos of the U.S. where racial discrimination and insufficient employment have created a lumpen culture of drugs and crime as well as a militant sector. Because Gordon Lewis, a liberal scholar respected by the North American academic community, argues in *Notes on the Puerto Rican Revolution* that the above factors and others dictate the necessity for Puerto Rican independence and socialism, the book is important. However, his argument falls short of the rigor demanded by the nature of the problem he presents. Originally intended as an introduction to a reprinting of *Puerto Rico: Freedom and Power in the Caribbean*, Lewis' essay is a rambling polemic rich in observations but lacking in structured analysis. The reader gleans from the essay the problem of dependency which is intense in Puerto Rico because of her direct colonial relationship with the United States. Helpful also is a provocative vision of an independent Puerto Rico—a society which