

*The Mexican Corrido: as a Source for Interpretive Study of Modern Mexico (1870-1950)*. By MERLE E. SIMMONS. New York, 1969. Kraus Reprint Co. Appendix. Notes. Bibliography. Pp. xviii, 619. Cloth.

Few books can be labeled scholarly, informative and genuinely interesting. Merle Simmons' study of the corrido meets all of the tests. Historians of the Mexican Revolution for years have recognized the popular corrido as a potentially important historical source but most have deigned to use it for little more than anecdotal relief or spice. As both a mold of public opinion and a reflection of it, the corrido offers a unique kind of historical grist. Hopefully this new edition of the volume which appeared originally in 1957 as a part of the Indiana University Humanities Series will spark a renewed and more serious interest in this remarkable type of popular document. Historians, folklorists and literary critics can squeeze out much more.

M.C.M.

*Latin American Government Leaders*, 2nd ed. Edited by DAVID WILLIAM FOSTER. Tempe, 1975. Center for Latin American Studies, Arizona State University. Pp. vii, 135. Paper. \$3.00.

A useful update of the guide first published in 1970 under the same title, this volume constitutes a handy reference for those persons needing brief biographical sketches of Latin American government officials. The study is arranged by country and includes presidents, vice-presidents, cabinet ministers, leading diplomats and church figures, as well as the heads of some de-centralized agencies.

M.C.M.

*Latin America 1974*. Edited by LESTER A. SOBEL. New York, 1975. Facts on File. Index. Pp. 210. Cloth. \$8.95.

The third annual volume of the Facts on File reference series dealing with Latin America, like the previous two, provides an account of the major political, economic, and social events of the year in Latin America. The material is written in a crisp, journalistic style and is organized by country. Each section presents a concise account of major current events in a single country, and, taken together, they comprise a fairly comprehensive reference for those interested in contemporary Latin America.

S.P.B.

*Yearbook on International Communist Affairs, 1975*. Edited by RICHARD F. STAAR. Stanford, 1975. Hoover Institution Press. Tables. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xxii, 678. Cloth. \$25.00.

The present volume constitutes the ninth in the series. Format remains basically the same with country studies grouped according to geographic area.

The Americas section of about 120 pages includes the United States, Canada, Guyana, and the traditional 20 Latin American countries. The three dependencies of Guadeloupe, Martinique, and Puerto Rico are also treated. Again there is no explanation for the conclusions or omissions in this incomplete roster. The work also contains a 30 page section on International Communist fronts and a substantial bibliography.

Basically the authors and editor concern themselves with self-defined Marxist-Leninist parties and political groups allied, associated, or connected with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Pro-Chinese, Castroite, and other "deviations," as well as some guerrilla and New Left groups are also included in the discussions. Some nationalist and liberation movements, even though Marxist oriented, are omitted. Consequently the coverage of terrorist activities in Latin America is uneven: excellent for Mexico, fair for Uruguay, and poor for Argentina.

Sparse on interpretation, the work is again primarily valuable for its compendium of information on the leadership, activities, and political attitudes of Marxist organizations—information that is scattered, often in small publications of limited editions, and hard to obtain.

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*Conferencia Internacional. Modelos de desarrollo en América Latina.* Edited by GERHARD DREKONJA. Prologue by GERHARD FRITZ and BRIGITTE FREYH. Berlin, 1974. Fundación Alemana para el Desarrollo Internacional. Tables. Pp. iii, 212. Paper.

This volume is useful for at least two reasons: it provides North Americans a look at how a cross section of Latins view social and economic change. Although the contributors do not share a common frame of reference and thus provide no truly comparative case studies, their individual treatments of Brazil, Cuba, Peru, and Mexico offer useful insights into the similarities and differences in policies and performance of five substantially different national experiences—and provide the rationale for the work's title. Especially suggestive is the contrast offered by including Peru as a "model of development"; Peru may well serve more and more as an example for reformers.

The second contribution of the volume is that while it takes a narrow approach and treats development largely in terms of indicators of economic growth, it is nevertheless an effort at nation-level comparison. If it is at all useful to think about "development," then analyzing several societies such as we have here is certainly much preferable to single sector or single country case study. To see further efforts, especially by Latin observers, at dealing with the continent at large would be a major advance in scholarship; to this end the present work is a valuable contribution.

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