

The Spanish Speaking in the United States: A Guide to Materials. Compiled by THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPANISH SPEAKING PEOPLE. Foreword by FRANCESCO CORDASCO. Detroit, 1975. Blaine Ethridge Books. Bibliographies. Indices. Pp. xiii, 175. Cloth. \$16.50.

I have often said that the problem with bibliographies is that they so quickly become outdated. This work is even worse because most of the material in it is quite old and is of doubtful use to anyone besides an historian. Very little of the material was written after 1970—just about the time some good material began to come out on the nation's Spanish-speaking. In addition a good deal of the material indicates that the editors stretched the subject a good bit in attempting to find work that they could include. Thus we have books included on Tarascan Folk Religion, on Hernán Cortez and the discovery of Mexico and on Cuba. While some of these may have some relation to the Spanish-speaking in the U.S., it seems doubtful. In the end, however, given the dearth of information on this nation's millions of Spanish-speakers, any publication which begins opening up some research areas is welcome. So mainly for the scholar interested in research this book is useful, but should not be considered alone or as one of the better bibliographies to come out on Chicanos, Puerto Ricans and Cubans.

University of Texas,
Austin

ARMANDO GUTIÉRREZ

The Peasant Marketing System of Oaxaca, Mexico. By RALPH L. BEALS. Berkeley, 1975. University of California Press. Maps. Tables. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. ix, 419. Cloth. \$20.00.

This is an important book which deserves the careful attention of all students of peasant economies. Drawing on personal familiarity and research over a number of years and a series of intensive studies by his students in the 1960's, Professor Beals presents a detailed and careful examination of traditional production, consumption, and exchange systems for the Valley of Oaxaca and adjacent sub-systems, and the response of these to the modernizing national economy. There are over 100 pages of fascinating appendices which alone provide considerable insight into the peasant economy; they will be a valuable source of information for comparative studies.

Although there has been a considerable increase in peasant marketing studies in recent years in Latin America and elsewhere and there are other detailed and excellent system studies now available (notably for Guatemala and Ecuador) this is the most comprehensive. Indeed, with the forthcoming publication of *Markets in Oaxaca* by H. Scott Cook and Martin Diskin (University of Texas Press), our knowledge of peasant marketing for a single region will be unrivaled. From my perspective the book has two major shortcomings: (1) the inattention to the large body of literature on marketing in peasant economies which make possible a number of comparisons, and (2) insufficient attention to theoretical concerns which have dominated recent studies of peasant marketing by both anthropologists and geographers.

University of Texas,
Austin

RICHARD SYMANSKI