

*Land or Death: The Peasant Struggle in Peru.* By HUGO BLANCO. New York, 1972. Pathfinder Press. Maps. Illustrations. Index. Pp. 178. Cloth. \$6.95.

This book, divided into two sections, contains most importantly Hugo Blanco's own account of the organization of peasant leagues in and around Cuzco, Peru, during the early 1960's. Blanco, doubtless the most widely known and outspoken Trotskyite radical peasant leader in the Andean region, gives his side of the picture in strong, polemical language; nevertheless, his account is clearly required reading for anyone attempting to come to grips with this particularly complex and critical time in contemporary Peruvian history. The book also contains a series of publication—leaflets, articles, interviews, and letters smuggled from prisons—which offer a trenchant (if not inflamed) critical leftist perspective of events in Peru up through the early years of the Velasco government.

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*Panama's Economic Development: The Role of Agriculture.* By WILLIAM C. MERRILL, LEHMAN B. FLETCHER, RANDALL A. HOFFMANN, AND MICHAEL J. APPLEGATE. Ames, 1975. Iowa State University Press. Maps. Tables. Illustrations. Figures. Appendices. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 219. Paper. \$6.95.

An exhaustive study of Panama's agricultural conditions and potentialities, this book has appeal for the expert as well as for the ordinary reader. Its tables and illustrations show that the provinces of Chiriquí, Veraguas, Coclé and Los Santos take the lead in agricultural firsts—in the production of beef and milk (p. 97), corn and beans (p. 94), rice (p. 88), and farm sales (p. 129).

The plight of the small titleless farmers "who locate where rivers and new roads provide access to new lands" (p. 191) is an eternal truth. Once they make the soil yield, tenure ends, as the land passes to influential landlords who are always protected by a faceless bureaucracy. It's no surprise, then, that most of the *colonos* moving to other less productive soil come from the high-yielding provinces (p. 191).

As excellent as this work is, it is doubtful that the present military regime in Panama will implement the lessons of this survey. Deluded by the government, the Panamanians are much too mesmerized with the rosy prospect of taking over the canal, a possibility which most certainly makes the life of the small farmer even more precarious.

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*The Evolution of Law in the Barrios of Caracas.* By KENNETH L. KARST, MURRAY L. SCHWARTZ, and AUDREY J. SCHWARTZ. Los Angeles, 1973. Latin American Center, University of California. Latin American Studies, 20. Tables. Illustrations. Figures. Appendices. Index. Pp. viii, 125. Cloth.

"Law," as the authors have chosen to define the term for the purposes of this book, is a system of "strongly and commonly held expectations and obliga-