

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-

tions." The focus of the study, consequently, is on the social attitudes and behavior of barrio residents. The basic research data was derived from the responses to a lengthy survey questionnaire administered in 1967 to 622 persons in ten barrios of Caracas. The interpretation of the data benefited significantly from the personal observations of three students who lived in the barrios for a summer and by the authors' own reading of contemporary literature about "barrio" development in Latin America. The result is a convincing portrait of barrio life which, while it offers few surprises for one familiar with the phenomenon elsewhere, does provide valuable statistical evidence confirming the impressions of other students of the subject. The authors conclude that despite their junglelike appearance the barrios are in fact "relatively orderly communities in which the residents are upwardly mobile in the socio-economic sense . . ." and share "well-defined expectations" (p. 3). The text is enhanced by 12 pages of photographs.

New York, N.Y.

TALTON RAY

Les établissements asto à l'époque préhispanique. Vol. I. By DANIELE LAVALLEE and MICHELE JULIEN. Introduction by HENRI FAVRE. Lima, 1973. Institut Français d'Études Andines. Travaux de l'Institut Français d'Études Andines, XV. Maps. Tables. Illustrations. Pp. 143. Paper.

The present study on the Astos of Peru—a prehispanic chiefdom situated on the high slopes of the Department of Huancavelica—is interesting for many reasons. First, the authors have taken a broader view of archeological studies than we are accustomed to. Here the pre-historical, pre-hispanic, ethnohistorical as well as ethnological dimensions are taken into consideration. In addition various aspects are present if not emphasized all along the analysis: ecology, technology, demography, etc. . . .

In the first chapter, the authors take up the task of reconstituting the history of the Astos. It deals, among other things with the importance of the Incas in the life of the chiefdom; and the impact of the Conquest on these populations (in particular the effects of the "reducciones"). This is done not only in archeological terms but also with the help of ethnology, history, etc. . . . In the second chapter, we are led into the archeological dimension proper. It considers the patterns of settlement and habitat of the Astos. It is important again to mention the methodology of the authors. Throughout they have departed from the old pre-historical analysis to make good and efficient use of ethnology and geography (space and settlement patterns). The third chapter considers the resources at the disposal of the Astos: the products at the disposal of the consumers (flora and fauna) according to the ecological niches; but also the technology or domestic equipment used to adapt to these resources: such as ceramic, lithic equipment, bones, etc. . . . In the fourth and final chapter, we are presented with an interpretation of the material and some hypotheses with respect to settlement patterns, demography, subsistence activities (pastoralism and agriculture), social structure (subsistence economy vs. state economy).

Finally half of the book (of 143 total), is taken up by photographs, and complementary studies such as James Schoenvetter's "Archeological Pollen Analysis of Sediment Samples from Asto Village Sites," or Thérèse Poulain's "Étude de la faune de dix gisements asto" (a totally quantitative analysis). In the last para-