

Rein's discussion of university politics and of the Church's campaign for a greater role in education is the richest part of the book. Her political history of education is largely founded on an analysis of presidential and ministerial speeches, laws, textbooks, and treatises on education. These sources orient the study to federal-level educational politics, and naturally leave educational practices in the provinces aside. Given the dynamics of her study, Rein takes full advantage of the fact that the universities fell more directly under federal jurisdiction and participated actively in national political affairs in order to illustrate the fractious political conflicts that educational policy generated.

*Politics and Education in Argentina* is a valuable contribution to the study of Argentine history and the history of education in Latin America, and its clear language and style make it particularly suitable for undergraduate courses. Finally, Rein's book points to the richness of available material on education for studying the way political discourse is transformed into social policy.

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*Through Corridors of Power: Institutions and Civil-Military Relations in Argentina.*

By DAVID PION-BERLIN. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997.

Tables. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. xvii, 243 pp. Cloth, \$45.00. Paper, \$17.95.

The danger with this book is that it may be used as a model for studies of relations between institutions of civilian government and the armed forces in other countries, based solely on the Argentine national idiosyncracies it stresses. In other words, the argument is convincing. The book's value is that it makes it clear that national idiosyncracies must be taken into consideration in future studies of state-military relations anywhere. In other words, it is well researched and written.

Just over 50 pages into *Corridors of Power*, Pion-Berlin makes the most significant of several points about relations between armed forces and civilians in Argentina. It is his contention, expressed forcefully in chapter 3 (pp. 45–74), that relations now take place between the military and institutions of state, not between the military and sectors of civilian society. This is important not only for Argentina, but for other countries as well. Superficially, at least it is verifiable, not only in Argentina, but elsewhere. It also tells us a lot about the past and the future as well as the present.

Relations between military organizations and states and their institutions are far more complex today than they were in the past. The complexities are now better understood by both parties in the civil-military relationship. Pion-Berlin makes this point well in chapter 3, and again in 4 (pp. 75–106), wherein he discusses recent political change and human rights issues in the 1980s during the presidency of Raúl Alfonsín (1983–89). National variables and windows of opportunity that continue to characterize these relations have always been important. International influences play a significant role in the shaping of relations.

This mix becomes apparent in chapters 5 and 6 (pp. 107–77) through Pion-Berlin's treatment of economic issues that affected budget cutting and kept defense reform from succeeding prior to and into the administrations of Carlos Menem (1989–95, 1995–). A solid comparative essay comparing Argentina to Chile and Uruguay in chapter 7 (pp. 179–221) puts the Argentine case and Pion-Berlin's approach to it in regional perspective. Neither Menem nor his appointees, he asserts, have chosen to fully utilize their authority. Moreover, civilians still lack the experience necessary to do so, which in terms of defense reform and alteration of state-military relations only "increases their dependency on the armed forces they are supposed to lead" (p. 176). It would be dangerous to apply this formula as such to other countries; doing so while allowing for national idiosyncrasies would be of great value.

In Argentina, this book informs us, the military still does not accept subordination to institutions of government legally constituted and popularly supported. There remain unsettled issues and undiscovered problems in the corridors of Argentine power. That the same can be said about Chile and Uruguay is clear, though it is never asserted.

In decades to come, those who study the intricate workings of civil-military relations within putatively democratic contexts are going to see issues raised by Pion-Berlin as important elsewhere, subject to peculiar circumstances. Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay are cases in point. If the powers of nation-states diminish and influences of transnational institutions increase, democratization, neoliberalism, and globalization may not prove any more effective in creating civil-military relations acceptable to all parties in Argentina and her neighbors than have yesteryear's ideological, economic, and national paradigms.

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### International and Comparative

*The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750–1850.* By LESTER D. LANGLEY.

New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996. Maps. Tables. Notes. Index. xvi, 374 pp. Cloth, \$35.00.

In his most recent book, *The Americas in the Age of Revolution, 1750–1850*, Lester Langley has written the sort of deep and wide hemispheric survey that few other historians could attempt with such success. Breaking away from his career focus on the diplomatic history of the United States and Latin America in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Langley promises "a portrait of hemispheric political culture," the consequences of which he has illuminated in his many other works. Indeed, he dedicates the volume to Walter LaFeber.

Though he says nothing about the twentieth-century Central American revolutions LaFeber described, Langley does aim to explain the relative success of British American versus Latin American elites in establishing unifying national mythologies and institutions. But his comparative apparatus is relatively light, for he emphasizes the