

and 1934. In these chapters Professor Jules Benjamin does a good job of relating the internal Cuban situation to the foreign relations dimension. He has provided many details that supplement earlier accounts of this period.

When Benjamin sticks closely to his research, he writes solid history. But, he has such a presentist approach to history that the reader is constantly deluged with highly questionable, ideological assertions and much theoretical nonsense. For example, we are told that a large minority of Cubans had been influenced by Marxism prior to 1898, Cubans somehow had a better diet with a tariff that raised the price of pork products three hundred percent, and depression conditions would have been relieved in 1933 by "direct assaults against the U.S. economic presence" (p. 185).

Ironically, the author's research contradicts some of his basic assumptions. In his interpretive sections he portrays U.S. foreign policy making as a monolithic process, with leaders in the executive branch plotting ways to maintain American control over Cuba. What he actually describes is a far more confused and ambiguous situation. A good editor should have reduced the wordy footnotes and redlined much of the ponderous writing and illogical phraseology.

Benjamin strongly implies that if the United States had not forced Cuba into a dependent, exploited state the island would have become one of the industrial powers of the Western world. Like it or not, dependency of various kinds is a fact of life in a complex world, even for industrial giants. Benjamin should have taken an objective look at contemporary Cuba, and he would have found that almost twenty years after breaking the chains of "capitalist imperialism" the island is still dependent on the export of sugar and the massive importation of foreign (Russian) capital and arms.

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*Diario de la revolución cubana.* By CARLOS FRANQUI. Paris, 1976. Editions Ruedo Ibérico. Maps. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. viii, 753. Paper.

Fidel Castro has remarked that many have written about the Cuban revolution except the revolutionaries who made it. *Diario de la revolución cubana* is of interest as Carlos Franqui was one of those revolutionaries and because of the wealth of information and eyewitness

accounts the book contains. *Diario* is a narrative of the Cuban insurrection (1952–1958) and Franqui, having been a member of the urban sector of the 26th of July movement, its representative abroad, and director of the rebel radio in the Sierra Maestra, is uniquely qualified to speak on the subject. From the Batista coup of 1952 to his overthrow in 1958, the formation of the revolutionary movement and all of the important events of the insurrection are discussed by most of the important leaders of the 26th of July. For example, when narrating the attack on the Moncada Barracks in 1953, Franqui uses the recollections of the participants as they have appeared in Cuban publications or as told to him in personal interviews or through private letters exchanged among the revolutionaries. There is a great deal of private correspondence published here for the first time including many letters by Castro himself. The insurrection thus comes alive through those directly involved in the process, revealing their hopes, frustrations, and disagreements over revolutionary strategy.

Students of the Cuban revolution will find new insights into almost every aspect of the insurrection process. For example, the tone of the letters written by Frank País to Castro during the months that followed the landing of the *Granma* reveals País as the man who held the overall strings of the 26th of July movement. The urban segment of the 26th responded to País, and the rural guerrillas depended on him for the logistical assistance delivered during the crucial months in 1956, following the landing of the *Granma*. Further, País' letters of June–July 1957 on the reorganization of the movement and political strategy reveal his power position within the movement. Was he in control, then, as has been speculated? In my opinion, the evidence presented leaves no doubt on the key power position of País. For years País' fiancée had charged Fidel Castro had given away the hideout of País that led to his assassination by Batista's henchmen.

In reading through the correspondence, one gets a grasp of the evolving conflict between the sierra and llano to which Che Guevara frequently refers to in his writing. For Guevara, the sierra bore the brunt of the struggle, and, in fact, his experience in Bolivia attempted to show how the *foco* could, by itself, create the revolution. But anyone who reads Franqui will realize the key role the llano played at all stages of the insurrection. Certainly this misunderstanding of the Cuban experience was one of the factors which led to Che's debacle in the late 1960s.

The negotiations that led to the Sierra Maestra Manifesto, the Miami Pact, and the general strike of 1958, all of which were controver-

sial turning points in the insurrection, are discussed utilizing a wealth of materials. The official military bulletins issued by Batista's high command during the final months of the dictatorship add new evidence to the demoralization and ineffectiveness of the Cuban armed forces.

Franqui's contribution is a substantial one to the historiography of the revolution. His method of presentation makes the process come alive through the voice of the participants. The leaders emerge as romantics, idealists, opportunists—trying to influence the movement with their conception of the "right strategy." Out of this clash emerged the revolutionary victory of December 1958.

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*Trustee of the Netherlands Antilles: A History of Money, Banking, and the Economy with Special Reference to the Central Bank van de Nederlandse Antillen, 1828–1978.* By JAAAP VAN SOEST. Curaçao, 1978. Bank van de Nederlandse Antillen. Tables. Graphs. Illustrations. Appendix. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 422. Cloth.

The wealth of Curaçao has produced some monumental studies for the historians of the Caribbean. To the works of the deceased I. S. Emmanuel (*History of the Jews of the Netherland Antilles*, 2 vols., 1970) can be added the impressive studies of the young Dutch economic historian, Jaap van Soest. His first work, *Olie als Water*, a history of the Shell Oil Refinery in Curaçao will hopefully soon be available in English. The work under review was originally written, but not published, in Dutch.

*Trustee of the Netherlands Antilles* is a well-conceived combination of two closely related studies. The first, told in alternating chapters, is the 150-year history of the Bank of the Netherlands Antilles. As background, and for most of the period closely related to this, is the more general history of the economic development of the Netherland Antilles told in the interlacing chapters. The author has utilized primary documentary material found in the archival collection of the bank, the Central Historical Archives of the Netherlands Antilles, and the General State Archives found in Holland.

The Bank van de Nederlandse Antillen is by far the oldest yet operating bank of circulation, and probably also the oldest central bank, in the western hemisphere. The commercial community of Curaçao has deep and extensive roots going back into the mid-seventeenth century