

Finally, the author describes in some detail the close social relations that the North American representatives enjoyed with members of the oligarchical elite during a period she calls "la belle epoque."

For the working classes of Argentina, however, the period was not so pleasant. The high cost of living, about which each U.S. diplomat complained, contributed to growing labor agitation, including Argentina's first general strike in 1902. Social disturbances occurred against the background of political unrest, particularly the appearance of Radical and Socialist parties in the 1890s. The wily Roca responded to these developments in two ways. First, he employed states of siege, special legislation to prohibit the entrance of "foreign trouble-makers," and the police to contain disorders. Second, he introduced to Congress in 1904 a comprehensive code of social welfare and initiated a political reform which permitted the election of Latin America's first Socialist congressman, Alfredo L. Palacios, in that same year. Unfortunately, Señora Espil does not mention these important developments in the social-political realm, nor does she indicate whether any of the four U.S. representatives were aware of or concerned with these issues.

In sum, this study is of value to scholars interested in the role of U.S. diplomats in Latin America. It suffers, however, from a failure to describe more fully the complex internal situation in Argentina with which these diplomats had to deal.

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Elecciones y partidos políticos en la Argentina. Historia, interpretación y balance: 1910-1966. By DARIO CANTON. Buenos Aires, 1973. Siglo XXI Argentina Editores. Tables. Appendix. Pp. 277. Paper.

This book is, according to its Introduction, "an historical analysis of the elections which were held between 1910 and 1966." For purposes of description, the book's contents can be divided into five parts: (1) It begins with a periodization of Argentine electoral politics and a description of the types of political parties active in each period. Very little in this section is in any way new. (2) Next is a description of the adoption of the Sáenz Peña election law and an analysis of its effects. Most interesting here is the thesis that the post-1912 increase in voter turnout is not attributable to the law's provision for obligatory male suffrage. (3) There is also a new typology of Argentine political parties based upon (a) concern with improvement in the conditions of the working class, (b) strict adherence to the letter of the law, and (c) domestic vs. international orientation. One should probably not

be surprised to discover that the Radicals of the 1916-1930 period and the Peronists of 1946-1955 fall into the same category. Unfortunately, this typology is not put to any real use. (4) Least successful, in my opinion, is the attempt to examine the social basis of Argentina's major political parties by means of a series of ecological correlations. Many of the correlations are presented without any interpretation in spite of the fact that their purpose is not readily apparent. For example, what conclusions are to be drawn from the fact that between 1916 and 1930 there was a very high negative correlation (-0.90) between voter turnout and the percentage of the vote received by the Socialists? (5) Last, and most interesting, is a discussion of factionalism within the Radical and Peronist parties. Especially good is the differentiation between the Laborites and the dissident Radicals who supported Perón in 1946, and between the hard-line Peronists and neo-Peronists of 1965.

Almost half of the book is composed of a series of about 150 relatively lengthy quotations grouped at the end of each chapter. These *fragmentos*, which come primarily from daily newspapers, the Chamber of Deputies *Diarios de Sesiones*, and the *Revista Argentina de Ciencia Política*, deal almost exclusively with the period between 1912 and 1930, principally because the author believes that this was the last period in which bourgeois democracy was able to function in Argentina. In most instances, these well chosen citations offer excellent illustrations of the points made by the author in the main body of the text.

Perhaps Canton's earlier works, such as *El Parlamento Argentino en épocas de cambio: 1890, 1916 y 1946* and *La política de los militares argentinos: 1900-1971* have led me to expect too much of him, for I must confess that I was somewhat disappointed by this book. I should emphasize, however, that although I do not believe that this book is up to the very high standards set by Canton's earlier works, it is still a valuable introduction to an important topic.

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Chile, Peru, and the California Gold Rush of 1849. By JAY MONAGHAN. Berkeley, 1973. University of California Press. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. Pp. viii, 312. Cloth. \$11.95.

Despite the imprint of a fine university press and the accoutrements of extended footnotes, a good index, and a developed bibliography, this is not a scholarly work. The author, the Consultant in the Wyles Collection of Lincolniana and Western Americana of the University of