

a casual reference to the respective theoretical-methodological contributions of Talcott Parsons and W. Lloyd Warner. Unlike José Imaz (*Los que mandan*), Cárdenas does not develop theoretical models taken from Argentine experience, but cavalierly dismisses current sociological approaches as non-scientific because they are not "at the service of a transformation of reality" (p. 15). Except for a few enlightening pages on the activities of early leftist labor movements, the last chapters are extremely repetitive, jargon-dominated, and pre-eminently polemical.

Furthermore, historical craftsmanship should transcend ideological differences. Cárdenas fails to footnote many quotations, and he omits page numbers and publication dates in the notes. Misleading statistics, contradictions, and unsupported generalizations add to the haphazard nature of the book. Also this reviewer must take exception to the derogatory practice of identifying cited authors by nationality.

This initial volume of *Las luchas nacionales* ends abruptly with the statement that federalism, Irigoyenism, and Peronism were the three great popular movements devoted to emancipating the nation. Assuredly this work was not intended for beginners. Argentine specialists may come to consider it a landmark, however, not because of its scholarly contribution, but because it indicates the current thinking of a growing number of intellectuals in Argentina who, owing to the increasingly difficult political situation, are turning to Marxist and ultranationalist models.

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*La tierra charrua*. By LUIS ALBERTO DE HERRERA. Montevideo, 1968. Arca Editorial. Bolsilibros Arca. Pp. 237. Paper.

For the last half-century Luis Alberto de Herrera has been one of Latin America's most influential thinkers. The reissue of an early edition of *La tierra charrua* is ample proof of the continuing intellectual and political influence that he still enjoys—especially in the River Plate region. Unlike many other Spanish American writers, Herrera uses the footnote extensively, but he seems to tire quickly of this literary torment and sometimes quotes freely without regard for title or author.

However, this minor sin can be overlooked by the evidence of a superb style, the product of well-chosen words and historical versa-

tility. His prose, reminiscent of Livy and Tacitus, sometimes reaches Homeric crescendo, while the characters move like those in Plutarch, revealing a vast culture and psychological insight. The Spaniard Emilio Castelar wrote in the same style.

Herrera's work is divided into three parts—the first a concatenation of military and political events leading to the deeds of Antonio Lavalleja and his “thirty-three immortals,” an episode which the Uruguayans seem to equate with that of Moses crossing the Red Sea. It is followed by a vivid description of the age of revolt, in which the unsatiated caudillos sought political power by direct action and plunged the entire Banda Oriental into chaos.

In the last chapters Herrera weeps for unfortunate Paraguay, then the victim of a triple aggression by Argentina, Brazil, and his own Uruguay (1865-1870). He reaches the conclusion that all evils in Latin America including those of Cuba in 1898 are the legacy of Spain. The author quotes the words of Eduardo Demoulin: “The victorious at Cavite and Santiago de Cuba, . . . those who succeeded in destroying our navy and capturing our army . . . were not Dewey, Sampson, or Shafter. It was not a battle of ships or a fight of men against men, but the struggle of a dying world against a new born world. . . . Life and progress have emerged victorious by virtue of its own strength. The yanqui school, rational, humane, and renescent vanquished the Spanish school, primitive archaic, and false” (p. 235).

The author fustigates those who blame the liberators for the ills of the fatherland. He makes a clear distinction between the selfless patriots who created the new republics—José de San Martín, José Artigas, and Bernardo O'Higgins—and the contrasting vain and power-hungry caudillos such as Rodríguez Francia and Manuel Rosas. Even the mercurial Simón Bolívar fails to enter Herrera's Pantheon of demigods. Internecine warfare, of course, makes up most of the story. The battle scenes are described with an eye for color and horror and a sure grasp of the tactical situations.

In the end, the pen of Herrera and other writers such as Enrique Rodó helped bring to South America the cherished dream of constitutional government: in Uruguay with José Batlle y Ordóñez, in Argentina with Roque Sáenz Peña, and in Chile with Arturo Alessandri. As a member of the Ruling Council, head of the National Party, and envoy to several nations including the United States, Luis Alberto de Herrera served his country with distinction until his death in 1956.

Obviously this work is a valuable addition to a specialist's library, as well as to the knowledge of the general reader.

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*Noticias confidenciales de Buenos Aires a U.S.A. (1869-1892)*. By COURTNEY LETTS DE ESPIL. Buenos Aires, 1969. Editorial Jorge Álvarez. Colección Cómo Nos Ven. Notes. Pp. 245. Paper.

Throughout more than a decade of world depression and war in the 1930s and early 1940s, Argentine Ambassador Felipe Espil served his country in Washington with tact and skill. In later years both he and his American-born wife, Courtney Letts, sustained their interest in Argentine-American relations through research and writing. In 1953 Sra. de Espil contributed a worthy article to this review (XXXIII, 152-167); in 1967, she published *La esposa del embajador*, a charming and revealing account of her ten years in the Washington embassy of her adopted country.

Now, through the eyes and words of United States diplomats to Buenos Aires, the Sra. de Espil has endeavored to give the Argentine people a picture of her throbbing nation in the years 1869 to 1892. As indicated by her chapter titles—phraseology borrowed from official despatches—American diplomats began to view Argentina as a “magnífico y vigoroso país joven” and as a “poderoso centro comercial.” In comparing Argentine evolution during these decades with that of the United States, she finds both parallels and contrasts. In each nation the government and people emerged from bitter convulsion and civil war to turn their energies to the tasks of recovery and reunion. In matters of national leadership, however, she suggests that Argentine executives from Sarmiento to Pellegrini considerably surpassed their Washington contemporaries. At any rate, for the first time the two nations began seriously to view each other.

The author's plan of organization is ingenious and effective. Using microfilm copies of the Diplomatic and Consular Despatches for her period (supplied by the United States National Archives), she has culled excerpts from more than two hundred documents. Through discerning interpolations between quotations and skillful arrangement of chapters, she has woven a narrative account of Argentina's late nineteenth-century resurgence. Where the despatches lack delineation, she has employed contemporary newspapers and historical works. She has utilized the resources of *La Nación*, *La Prensa*, the