

Most interesting is the treatment of events and issues since 1945. The assassination of Jorge Eliécer Gaitán in 1948, according to the author, was “promoted by international communism . . . for the purpose of taking power in Colombia” (p. 156). Similarly, in accord with Conservative party doctrine, the Violencia that afflicted Colombia from about 1948 into the 1960s is termed “la segunda violencia,” the first one occurring in the 1930s (and therefore, implicitly, a Liberal responsibility).

Botero is surprisingly frank about some issues that have preoccupied the church in Colombia over the last four decades. He discusses the tendency, beginning in the 1960s, for priests and nuns to renounce their vows in order to marry; some five percent of Colombian priests, he acknowledges, now leave the priesthood to marry. In his discussion of the emergence of a rebellious left within the clergy (Camilo Torres and others of the “Golconda” group), the author, like many Colombian lay conservatives, tends to blame their contamination on the study of sociology.

With similar frankness, the author discusses the challenges to traditional Catholic doctrines on the family that are arising by the increased acceptance of civil marriage among the upper class and by the changing attitudes toward birth control in all classes. He notes a growing tendency among the poor as well as the rich to resort to abortion. While he mentions “the generalization of the use of contraceptives,” Botero says nothing about the Colombian government’s role in promoting their use (p. 182). This discreet omission is in line with the general policy of the Colombian hierarchy not to make a noisy issue of government support for birth control.

Northwestern University

FRANK SAFFORD

Los años veinte en Colombia: Ideología y cultura. By CARLOS URIBE CELIS. Bogotá: Colección Historia de Colombia, Ediciones Aurora, 1985. Illustrations. Notes. Appendixes. Pp. 206. Paper.

In this fascinating book, Carlos Uribe Celis argues persuasively that the third decade of the twentieth century was a “key, fundamental, new, singular, and strategic period in Colombian history” (p. 20). He begins by reviewing post-World War I intellectual, political, and social trends in the Western world and more specifically in Latin America. Then, relying primarily on articles and opinions expressed in contemporary newspapers, he assesses the impact of these trends in Colombia by tracing developments in politics, intellectual thought, education, architecture, painting, science, technology, and popular culture throughout the decade. He concludes that the urban minority, especially the cultural elites, were most affected by the changes that occurred. However, he maintains that the growth of labor unionization, urbanization, proletarianization of the peasants, so-

cialism, and indigenist movements was substantial enough to herald the arrival of the twentieth century in even the most remote areas of the nation.

Uribe Celis, a sociology professor at the Universidad Nacional with a degree from Cambridge in economic development, highlights many topics long ignored by historians. His tantalizingly brief discussions of the impact of jazz on earlier musical forms, the development of feminism, the introduction of the automobile and the airplane, the increasing popularity of soccer, and the impact of North American-inspired architecture suggest that these are subjects worthy of more intensive investigation. There is effective use of illustrations. For example, the juxtaposition of photographs of feminine fashion at the beginning and end of the decade reveals a dramatic shortening of hemlines, and the reproduction of selected political cartoons by Ricardo Rendón provides a unique commentary on the foibles of the Miguel Abadía Méndez administration. At times the book disintegrates into an encyclopedia-like list of facts, and the inclusion of a bibliography would have increased its utility. Nevertheless, the narrative is free of jargon and immensely readable. Uribe Celis has succeeded admirably in recreating the atmosphere of the '20s, a feat that will be appreciated by browsers as well as social historians.

University of Massachusetts-Amherst

JANE M. RAUSCH

The Search for Public Policy: Regional Politics and Government Finances in Ecuador, 1830–1940. By LINDA ALEXANDER RODRÍGUEZ. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1985. Tables. Maps. Illustrations. Appendixes. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xv, 281. Cloth. \$32.50.

Rodríguez has written a carefully researched and generally well-documented review of public policy toward government finances in Ecuador during the first 110 years of that country's national existence. Ecuadoran regionalism is, quite properly, drawn into the concerns of this study, which devotes particular attention to the events of the 1920s.

The author's finding that evolutionary, rather than revolutionary, change has characterized the country's development despite the frequency of so-called "revolutions" in Ecuador will not come as a new or startling proposition to students of political instability in that country. What is new and valuable is the quantitative character of the research methods employed by Rodríguez. She has worked meticulously with statistical and nonstatistical sources housed in Ecuadoran, U.S., and British archives. The wealth of information, especially the quantitative data, reported here is not only impressive but also remarkably valuable to scholars concerned with the economic and financial development of Ecuador. While the relevant statistical gathering and reporting services have improved markedly of late, this study is nevertheless replete with data still not easily attainable in En-