

It is clear that it took a lot; but with the guiding influence of Emilio Moran and Nigel Smith, both established scholars of recent Amazonian development, Stewart set off to see what had happened 20 years after these scholars had documented the lives of recent colonists in the eastern Brazilian Amazon. The questions he set out to answer were, How would colonists adapt to their new environment in the long run? How would they alter the ecosystem? and How would the Amazon be developed? (p. 6).

Stewart undertook a general survey on one stretch of the Altamira Highway, concentrating on the relationship between soil type and agricultural practices in one community on Side Road 27. The results of this work are presented as a backdrop for an admittedly biased examination of the policies that caused the development of the eastern Brazilian Amazon, the effects these policies have had on small farmers, and the state of these farmers 20 years after this frontier was expanded. The book also addresses the long-term fate of these people and their ways of gaining a livelihood; all set against the backdrop of the forest.

Stewart was enchanted by what he found. Like an eighteenth-century traveler on his first trip outside his home country, Stewart was fascinated by the novel plants and animals and beguiled by the lives of the rural people he met. He became an unabashed advocate of a group that has few advocates, the recent and somewhat less recent colonists of the Brazilian Amazon. "If my biases toward the colonists are not already evident, I admit them" (p. 9). These biases lead to the message he clearly wants to deliver most forcibly—that for the long-term benefit of the colonists, the Brazilian nation, and the forest itself, a second land distribution must be made, directed by the colonists themselves, which would firmly root the smallholder to the land.

Delighted though Stewart was to have been there and to have had the chance to write this book, the reader cannot always share that delight. This is an odd book; it reads like a combination of "letters home" and polemic. Even though this reviewer is not a student of Brazilian Amazon development, he found many points that might be contested. Stewart's grasp of the politics of indigenous peoples and their interactions with colonists is simplistic, as is his understanding of the ecology of the region in which he traveled. If Stewart were able to arrange the world the way he wished for the colonists, in this reviewer's opinion, after the trees there would be only the colonists' agricultural fields and pastures.

KENT H. REDFORD, *The Nature Conservancy*

*Orden y virtud: el discurso republicano en el régimen rosista.* By JORGE MYERS. Buenos Aires: Universidad Nacional de Quilmes, 1995. Notes. Bibliography. 310 pp. Paper.

The struggles that rent Argentina for much of the nineteenth century revolved around several important issues. They ranged from the material, such as the distribu-

tion of collected revenues, to the political, including the allocation of constitutional privileges among the provinces, to the spiritual, such as the nature and expression of Argentine culture. Traditional historiography has lent a dyadic, inimical quality to these debates. Federalists (especially Juan Manuel de Rosas, their political icon) battled with unitarians with the goal of winner take all. In the end, and even after the military defeat of the most ardent unitarians in Buenos Aires, the forces of international liberalism won out over the more nationalistic, creole-oriented partisans.

More recent literature, by contrast, has pointed to the similarities found on both sides, underneath their considerably different stylistic surfaces. Tulio Halperín Donghi, Mark D. Szuchman, Jonathan C. Brown, Richard Goldman, and Ricardo Salvatore, among other scholars, have noted the continuities underlying the shifts from unitarian periods to federalist eras and back, and the similar practices of all parties.

Jorge Myers' book contributes to this more recent literature by focusing on the instrumental use of discourse by the political protagonists and ideological advocates. Myers targets the republican content of the discourse employed by Rosas and his supporters. Despite the language of implacable enmity Rosas used against his adversaries, the Rosista vision of the nation was fundamentally rooted in a classical, Graeco-Roman view of republicanism, enhanced with nineteenth-century updates from Europe and the United States but adapted to the agrarian conditions of life and production in Argentina.

Two basic hypotheses drive Myers' study: that the discourse of the Rosas regime was "essentially republican," and that the relationship between the discourse and the practice contained more complexity than normally assumed. The second point is not novel; others, beginning with Domingo Sarmiento, have long recognized the highly nuanced nature of nineteenth-century authoritarianism. In support of his first point, however, Myers highlights an angle not refracted before: that, contrary to generally held belief, a great deal of rhetoric from the liberal Rivadavian era was employed by Rosistas all of stripes, including *El Restaurador* himself.

The work consists of two parts. The first analyzes the different ways the republican rhetoric was employed in the institutional structures of government, the public sphere of civil society, the agrarian community, and other areas. The second part is devoted to transcriptions of documents, speeches, and newspaper articles by important figures of the Rosas era, including the propagandists Pedro de Angelis and Agustín Wright, as well as Rosas himself. This work makes an important contribution to the study of political discourse. It also underscores the need for analyzing other facets of the subject: the apparent void between rhetoric and practice; the lasting value of ideals, even if their implementation appears awkward or far removed from their original intent; and the Januslike nature of political society in the process of nationbuilding during the nineteenth century.

MARK D. SZUCHMAN, Florida International University