

NATIONAL PERIOD

Our America: Writings on Latin America and the Struggle for Cuban Independence. By JOSÉ MARTÍ. Edited by PHILIP S. FONER. Translated by ELINOR RANDALL, JUAN DE ONÍS, ROSLYN HELD FONER. New York, 1977. Monthly Review Press. Notes. Index. Pp. 448. Cloth. \$16.50.

Antonio Maceo: The "Bronze Titan" of Cuba's Struggle for Independence. By PHILIP S. FONER. New York, 1977. Monthly Review Press. Map. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. vi, 340. Cloth. \$15.00.

Philip S. Foner has continued to study the role of Cuban nationalists of the nineteenth century with the second volume of a projected three-volume collection of writings by José Martí and with his biography of Antonio Maceo. Foner's book on Maceo, the legendary black military genius of the Ten Years' War (1868–1878) and of the early days of the Cuban revolution of the 1890s, is the only full-length account available in English. It is based on research in published sources and some primary materials thus bringing together in one volume what is known about Maceo. Foner views Maceo as a revolutionary bent on helping bring about Cuban independence from Spain and providing for the establishment of a racially democratic society. He has fallen in love with his subject, detailing Maceo's military exploits and his political relations in favorable terms. The book is also a political history of the anti-Spanish movement for the years 1868 through the mid-1890s.

We learn little about Maceo's personality and Foner hardly takes seriously the often claimed charge of other Cuban nationalists that Maceo was arrogant and might well have become a military autocrat if given a chance. The issue, true or false, needed further examination. The author, on the other hand, faces squarely the question of racial prejudice and its influence on the Cuban revolutionary movement. It is his conclusion that some racial prejudice among the Cubans had a negative influence on the development of Maceo's role in Cuban affairs. While fascinated by the racial and military issues affecting Maceo's life, Foner could have tied both concerns together to analyze in more detail Maceo's love of military life by comparing it to that of other Latin American revolutionaries. How much of his revolutionary ardor was sincere and how much grew out of the love of combat? Without a more thorough analysis of Maceo the man, as opposed to Maceo the historical image, we are left with the unanswered question of how

unique was Maceo in comparison to other Latin American revolutionaries who struggled against Spain?

In volume two of José Martí's writings, selected and edited by Foner, one sees his continued fascination for, and interest and admiration in, Cuban revolutionary leaders of the past century. The author provides a detailed and lengthy introduction discussing the life and work of Martí. The selection of papers, speeches, articles, and other writings by Martí deals with affairs in Latin America, concentrating on the Cuban revolutionary movement. The material is very representative of Martí's thoughts and writings on all manner of political and economic topics. In conjunction with the first volume which concerned the United States, one has an excellent understanding of Martí's views of the New World. The introductions in each of the edited volumes nicely complement the material presented in the biography on Maceo. The third volume will offer samples of Martí's views on education, literature, art, and children's stories.

Taken as a group, the work done by Professor Foner on Martí and Maceo brings together what was basically known about these two revolutionaries into one source. These two books also continue his earlier work on relations among Cuba, Spain, and the United States during the 1890s. The biography on Maceo and the commentaries on Martí, although not profoundly revealing or exhaustively researched, nonetheless are useful introductions to the period, particularly for the Ten Years' War and on the 1880s about which so little has been written. The bibliographic references in both volumes provide a good exposure to available literature. And the author's use of some Cuban archival sources should not go unnoticed.

Fords, New Jersey

JAMES W. CORTADA

Historiología cubana. Vol. II: *Desde 1898 hasta 1944*. Vol. III: *Desde 1944 hasta 1959*. By JOSÉ DUARTE OROPESA. Introduction by ANA GUERRA DEBÉN. Miami, 1974. Ediciones Universal. Bibliography. Glossary. Pp. 623, 592. Paper.

These two volumes by Duarte Oropesa are the last published works of a trilogy encompassing all of Cuba's history from the time it became an island(!) until the rebel army seized power in 1959. The author has already announced a fourth book covering the years 1959 to 1967.

The two pieces under review although falling under the rubric of