

To summarize, this is a solid book based on an expert use of quantitative methods. The study findings are important, reliable, and a benchmark for future work. Its stable-system model discredits the confederation-era crisis model that informs recent literature. By declining to engage Marxist theory, the authors neglect other possibilities for instability. One awaits the rest of the story.

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David Rock (ed.), *Latin America in the 1940s: War and Postwar Transitions* (Berkeley: University of California Press 1994).

As we approach the end of the twentieth century, it seems appropriate to reconceptualize the periodization of this era within the regional context of Latin America. Unlike many national histories where the compartmentalization of decade-long divisions has been rife, this rethinking of chronological division has largely been absent from the writings of Latin Americanists who work on the recent past. The aim of this volume is to demonstrate that the decade of the Second World War formed a transitional bridge into modernity for the nations of Latin America. This anthology emerged from a series of several meetings during which a group of scholars who study contemporary Latin America proposed and then documented the period of the 1940s as a key watershed for the region. Although many of the subjects broached in this volume — nationalism, industrialization, the rise of labour movements,

populism — did not suddenly arise in the 1940s, this decade marked an intensification and acceleration of the changes already present in the region.

During this period, the nations of Latin America suffered dramatic transformations which essentially altered the very nature of the region. From primarily rural nations they became urban-based; the population itself burgeoned; the economies became predominately industrial rather than agricultural; the state expanded and became more interventionist; finally populist movements associated with industrialization and nationalism emerged as an important force on the various national political scenes. Not all these elements suddenly mushroomed everywhere in the 1940s, but David Rock argues that they were heightened during this decade in concert with international pressures.

A second theme which runs through the volume is the role of the United States. The policies and attitudes of the U.S. shaped the economy of the region as the threat of war in Europe led to a fostering of closer and more beneficial economic ties with Latin American allies. American foreign policy was also influential in both the establishment of some openness in the political regimes of several nations but also with the fluctuations of leftist movements and in particular the influence and strength of the labour movement. But the authors of the various essays are careful to not overstate the control exerted by the U.S. and argue that internal and external forces must be weighed accordingly. Although the influence of the United States was an inescapable fact in many transformations of the period, the intricacies of national characteristics and histories cannot be overlooked. This factor is well argued by

Fernando Lopez-Alves in his analysis of the political structure elaborated in Uruguay.

The volume comprises essays of diverse coverage; some examine the region as a whole while others use a comparative approach which covers a few nations, and still others explore a particular theme within only one country. Ian Roxborough provides a broad overview of the perils of labour in the postwar period in which he weaves together the various forces arrayed for and against the movement. David Rock's general essay on the United States and Latin America as well as his introductory and concluding chapters bring together information on the region as a whole which challenges the history of the region as a whole. These two contributors stand out simply because their essays fulfil the mandate of the volume most fully.

The unevenness in coverage of the region as a whole within the essays probably reflects a lack of depth in these particular areas of inquiry. Rather than signalling a weakness in the volume, this factor should only indicate directions for future research. A number of essays address distinct topics within the setting of the external influences specific to the 1940s. Corinne Antezana-Pernet, for example, documents the attempts of Chilean women to secure the vote. The political processes which were particular to pro-suffrage Chilean organizations in this period are clarified in the light of international trends. In the same vein, the impact of World War II on Argentine farming is explored by Daniel Lewis who argues that the crisis of this sector arose from a combination of internal weaknesses and the loss of markets due to the war. On the other hand, Joseph Cotter presents a revisionist version of the

"Green Revolution" in Mexico in which Mexican farmers rather than suffering an isolation during this period benefitted from the introduction of foreign seeds, fertilizers and technology.

Although the authors' disciplines are varied, the approaches of the essays are uniformly political and economic. The analysis thus holds together tightly but does not go beyond a small range of analytical strategies. The authors argue collectively and individually that this period represented a key transformation but do not give us any sense of mentalities or the cultural impact of these sea changes. The integrated method used by the authors of this anthology is one which shows much promise for a reinterpretation of twentieth-century Latin America and already has shed new light on this period.

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David J. Bercuson and S.F. Wise (eds.), *The Valour and the Horror Revisited* (Montreal: McGill Queen's 1994).

When the CBC aired *The Valour and the Horror*, a three-part television series on Canada's role in World War II, it sparked a major controversy among viewers, war veterans, and historians. Brian and Terence McKenna, the authors-producers of the series, were accused of distorting historical facts, maligning individuals such as Commanders Arthur Harris and Guy Simonds, presenting a biased account of events, and overstepping the line between journalism, history, and drama. Their revisionist interpretations of Canadian involvement in Normandy,