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Review

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some of the typical phrases are: The United States, from dollar diplomacy to good neighborliness; Mexico, the Mexican revolution; Haiti, under Manifest Destiny; Cuba, toward real autonomy; Central America, "Banana Empire"; Venezuela, extended autocracy; Colombia, evolution towards liberalism; Peru, return to militarism; Chile, hierarchical democracy; Argentina, new currents; and Brazil, toward a totalitarian state.

The emphasis of the work is on political history although there is some attention to other phases. The section on the colonies is mainly an institutional study in which the Spanish regime is fully discussed. In addition at the end of the section dealing with the twentieth century there is a brief survey of economic, social, religious, and cultural life as well as the international relations of the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

Errors of fact are quite frequent; especially is this true in the treatment given to the United States and Nicaragua. Many American names are misspelled. Since these errors are so numerous no listing is made of them. In discussing the United States the choice of language often indicates an anti-American bias and a supercritical attitude. The author has a tendency to consider the United States as responsible for much that has occurred in Latin America.

Dr. Sánchez is a vigorous writer and an ardent student of history. Consequently, despite the criticisms indicated the volumes present a readable and interesting survey of the more outstanding events of the history of the republics of the Western Hemisphere.

ROSCOE R. HILL.

Washington, D. C.

*General Tomás Guido. Vida—diplomacia—revelaciones y confidencias.* By FELIPE BARREDA LAOS. (Buenos Aires: Tall. Graf. Linari y Cía., 1942. Pp. 391. \$2.50 m/n.)

The author of this volume is a Peruvian diplomat, late ambassador to Argentina, who now makes his permanent residence in Buenos Aires. He is best known to historians for a volume he published in Lima in 1909, *Vida intelectual de la colonia*, which he reprinted with a slightly altered title in Buenos Aires in 1937. The hero of the book is Tomás Guido (1788-1866), loyal friend and collaborator of San Martín in the liberating campaigns in Chile and Peru, entrusted with numerous diplomatic missions by his native Argentina after the achievement of independence, and one of the most disinterested and respected figures in the public life of his country. Utterly divorced from the factional passions which throughout his lifetime were re-

ducing the Argentine provinces to anarchy, ardently devoted to the interests of national reconciliation and consolidation, he gave his services loyally to each successive government in turn. He was sent as envoy to Brazil by Dorrego in 1828, by Rosas in 1830 and again in 1841-1850, and by Urquiza to Paraguay in 1856 and to both Paraguay and Uruguay in 1859. He had a large share in formulating the Preliminary Treaty of Peace between Argentina and Brazil which gave independence to Uruguay in 1828, and the Convention of Flores after the battle of C epeda in 1859 which forced the province of Buenos Aires to re enter the Argentine confederation. In 1855 the provinces of San Juan and Santa Fe both chose him senator to represent them in the national congress then meeting in the city of Paran a, the temporary capital.

The volume by Dr. Barreda Laos provides us with the first complete account of the public career of this Argentine statesman. And the task needed to be done. In spite of the addiction of Argentine and other Latin-American historians to political biography, the field of the nineteenth century has scarcely been scratched. We are therefore under obligation to the author for bringing into proper perspective in the agitated first half-century of Argentina's independent history the significance of Guido's personality and career. Not that we learn as much about his personality as we should like. For this is scarcely a full-length biography. The political activities of General Guido are embedded in a rather digressive and rhetorical review of contemporary events in Argentina and its neighbors, from which the personal and private life of Guido scarcely emerge. Apart from obvious sources of printed information, the author has relied chiefly upon such private papers of Guido as are deposited in the Archivo de la Naci n in Buenos Aires. This is good enough so far as it goes. But there must be much other material available in the memoirs and other papers of his contemporaries. In short, after the elaborate scaffolding of contemporary history has been removed, there remains only the bare skeleton of Guido's public accomplishments. This happens too often in Latin American biography, the author using a limited series of documents upon which to build a "life" of his hero, and padding it with a restatement of the history of his times.

The book before us is a rather fulsome, uncritical, semi-popular account of Guido's public career. Guido in the author's judgment could do no wrong. But the book is interestingly written, and is a welcome addition to Argentine historiography. There is a documentary appendix of forty-three pages, including eleven letters from San

Martín to Guido written most of them from Paris during the years 1828-1845.

C. H. HARING.

Harvard University.

*Páginas de historia y de polémica.* By CARACCILO PARRA-PÉREZ. (Caracas: Litografía del Comercio, 1943. Pp. iii-vii, 349.)

Any book by Caracciolo Parra-Pérez, distinguished Venezuelan diplomat, scholar, and historian, commands attention. Although he insists in the foreword to this volume that history has been only his pastime, his "violín de Ingres," he has published eight books, including this one, since 1925, when his first work, *Miranda et la Révolution Française*, appeared. The chief interest of Parra-Pérez has been in the birth of the Republic of Venezuela, particularly in the personalities of Miranda and Bolívar and their work in the foundation of the Republic. And he has sought to establish the relations between the history of his own country and that of Europe, a work for which he has been especially prepared by his extensive studies in foreign diplomatic and other archives. In 1939, his most comprehensive study, *Historia de la primera república de Venezuela*, was published in two volumes. This latest work, *Páginas de historia y de polémica*, as the author states in his foreword and indicates in footnotes, is a collection of writings made over a period of thirty years, the greater part of which have been published in periodicals and newspapers in Venezuela and France. Several articles appear here for the first time. These papers emphasize, expand, and in some instances, amend ideas and opinions expressed in his books, and in the foreword and footnotes, the author makes certain other emendations.

The book consists of three parts: "El Precursor," "El Libertador," and "Silva." The longest division, 142 pages, is devoted to Miranda; also several papers in the third section relate to him. Since he undertook the study of Miranda in 1919 (p. 5), Parra-Pérez has been the protagonist of the noted Precursor of Hispanic-American independence against what he considers the errors and misconceptions of other writers, native or foreign. His first book appeared in fact as an answer to a life of Dumouriez by the French historian, Chiquet, who had accepted the former's opinion of Miranda (pp. v, 79). One might find a parallel between Parra-Pérez's crusade for the reputation of Miranda and the latter's persistent search for aid to liberate the Spanish colonies. A very considerable part of this first division falls in the category of "Polémica," the larger part of this, "Acera de Miranda" and "Los extranjeros y nuestra historia," pro-