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Partners in Conflict: The United States and Latin America

Russell W. Ramsey

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Caribbean and Central America. In this volume, Dr. Wiarda teams with Mark Falcoff to provide a collection of essays which consider the Moscow-Havana role in communist expansion in the region. Among their contributors are Jiri and Virginia Valenta, who have provided the best analysis available of Grenada in 1979-1983. Their chapter is particularly useful in its breakdown of Soviet policy into its component parts: policy toward revolutionary regimes (Cuba and Nicaragua), progressive regimes (Mexico and Panama), "bourgeois-liberal" regimes (Venezuela and Costa Rica) and reactionary regimes (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras). Described here is a more systematic and sophisticated foreign policy approach, with different means to achieve different ends throughout the region, than that suggested by more traditional analyses of Soviet western hemisphere policy.

Chapters by Marc Falcoff on Cuba's policy of revolution-for-export and an excellent offering by Ernest Evans on the changing strategies of revolutionary movements in Central America round out this important study, perhaps the best in a fairly recent explosion of literature on the subject.

These three books provide ready access to a most comprehensive span of documentation and analysis. Indeed, if the reader is not an expert on the region but a generalist in

foreign policy, this collection is really all he needs.

LAWRENCE T. DIRITA
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy
U.S.S. *Leyte Gulf* (CG-55)

Lowenthal, Abraham F. *Partners in Conflict: The United States and Latin America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1987. 240pp. \$10.95

Economic and demographic changes in Latin America's major nations have altered U.S. interests in the region. Especially, argues Professor Lowenthal, with respect to Mexico, Brazil, and the Caribbean Basin, whose current roles in both hemispheric and world economic affairs have simply bypassed North American policy thinking.

Professor Lowenthal offers details on trade, production, finance, and development in these three subregions. In clear, restrained passages, he reviews the recent history of U.S. policies toward Latin America which presidents since Franklin D. Roosevelt have offered as foreign policy centerpieces. These policies, he concludes, barely survived their authors' terms in the White House. He believes that they were couched in corrective-reformist terms and failed to address the emergence of several Latin American nations as important world economies. A corollary theme is the long-standing debate between those who favor Uncle Sam in the activist or interventionist mode, and those who

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advocate the passive or hands-off stance toward Latin America. Both camps, says Lowenthal, are missing the point.

What has really happened, he argues, is that Latin America is no longer the region it once was, or the one we once thought it was. The parade of presidential policy clichés no longer apply, however sincerely they may have been conceived. Instead of the interventionist-neutrality dichotomy, Lowenthal advocates flexible partnership. The long-term interests of both the United States and Latin America, he believes, are served by policies which foster economic development.

Refusing to duck the regional thornbushes, Lowenthal (writing in 1987) wades into the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua and the old U.S. policy of arming its opposition. He takes a well-reasoned jab at both the doves and the hawks. The Sandinistas really are, he affirms, a regional destabilizer and a genuine military threat; but the Reagan policy of arming an opposition which could not generate the popular support needed to overthrow the Sandinistas tended to push the United States to the brink of an armed showdown to avoid diplomatic humiliation. Such an intervention, he concludes, would have been condemned throughout Latin America and much of the western world.

According to Lowenthal, the Central American solution is to resurrect the Contadora Plan of 1982, which the United States quietly scuttled in the mistaken notion that

the Contras could achieve a military victory in Managua. The regional solution is for the United States and Latin America to drop trade barriers, share economic success, and seek a basis for genuine partnership. The old Washington notion of U.S. regional hegemony must go. Professor Lowenthal's arguments are trenchant, factually supported, and perhaps still in need of a significant political champion in Washington, D.C.

RUSSELL W. RAMSEY
Air Command and Staff College

Chiliand, Gerard and Rageau, Jeanne-Pierre. *A Strategic Atlas: Comparative Geopolitics of the World's Powers*. 2nd ed., translated from the French by Tony Berrett. New York: Harper and Row, 1985. 224pp. \$26.95

The authors of *Strategic Atlas* claim that theirs is the first book of its kind. They note in the preface a break from the traditional and long outdated Mercator projection "with its horizontal and almost pre-Galilean world in which the land masses appear to cover a larger area than the seas;" and they address a subject not often treated in an atlas: the perceptions held by states regarding their own security (including not only those of the United States and U.S.S.R., but also the lesser known regional powers such as Saudi Arabia, Brazil, India, South Africa, Japan and Israel). A section on physical resources, demographic