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Politics and Economic Change in Latin America

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Anderson, Charles W. *Politics and Economic Change in Latin America*. Princeton, N.J.: Van Nostrand, 1967. 388 p.

Mr. Anderson examines the effect of the several types of political regimes in South America upon the development of that continent since 1900. The book is divided into three parts. The first describes the conditions under which democratic political institutions evolved. The second analyzes the post-World War II successes and failures of 10 typical South American nations, using statistical data summaries for analysis and illustration. Part III, "Conclusions," discusses problem areas and comments upon the future of South America. South American political systems were copied from those of Western industrial nations. These systems were largely irrelevant to South America since there existed no middle-class society, no broad industrial base, no modern economic sector, no organized labor movement, no external military threat, and no public or private service infrastructure (transportation, communications, et cetera) to be operated and regulated. Hence, from the beginning, the governments were institutions in search of a role. There has been no mass participation in government. Officials have no sense of constituency. Although they are elected, they represent only the elites of three power contenders: large landowners, a very small modern (industrial) sector, and the traditional military aristocracy. In spite of the many "revolutions," South American Governments are remarkably conservative and stable. What are called revolutions are usually bloodless and are simply efforts by one of the power contenders to gain greater influence. In fact, the South American political hierarchies and apparatuses change very slowly. The types of regimes analyzed are classed as: (1) civilian-conventional, (2) mixed civilian-military, (3) military-conventional, (4) peaceful alteration,

and (5) radical or revolutionary alteration. The public sector indices against which these regimes are judged are public works (road construction primarily), electric power generation, primary education, social services, public housing, agrarian reform, annual rates of growth (based on per capita gross domestic product), and capacity to attract foreign investment. The author concludes that no type of progress is characteristic of any regime. Each has had successes and failures in all areas.

One is left with two major impressions: that South American economic and social development has been remarkable under the circumstances and that the lack of Communist influence is surprising, considering the abject poverty extant in most of South America. Also, by learning in detail what South America lacks to make democracy work, one arrives at a much greater understanding of what makes the United States function as she does. The author concludes optimistically that the United States must be patient and understanding and must sympathetically endure South America's problems as the continent matures—because there is really no alternative.

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Bailey, Norman A. *Latin America in World Politics*. New York: Walker, 1967. 250 p.

Mr. Bailey attempts to explain the past actions of Latin America and to predict future actions, utilizing a type of functional evaluative process of political science. In order to accomplish this end, he defines certain terms such as "client," "paramount," and "floater" and places the pertinent countries within one of these categories. Otherwise, in general, he employs the conventional concepts of the political scientist to achieve his predictive tasks. The premise is initiated that Latin America has pro-