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Author

Whigham, Thomas Lyle

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detail, of the political and economic vicissitudes of the "elite" members of São Paulo's ruling class. His focus was obviously dictated by the availability of written sources, yet more progressive-minded social scientists are transcending such strictures by using oral sources and by borrowing some research methodology from social anthropologists.

In the introduction to this book Love writes that he hopes to see many more regionalist works produced in the near future, even suggesting the regions most in need of attention. While this call for further research is worthwhile, it is hoped that the sophistry of cliometric methodology will be abandoned. It is also hoped that further regionally-based research will fully integrate all the social classes of the region into its discussion.

Darryle John Gatlin
University of California, Los Angeles

Paraguay Under Stroessner. By PAUL H. LEWIS. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980. Pp. xi + 256. Notes, bibliography, index. \$22.00.

Alfredo Stroessner, the last of Latin America's "traditional" dictators, has ruled Paraguay for the past twenty-seven years, surpassing even Fidel Castro in tenure. Unlike the Cuban revolutionary, however, Stroessner has rarely been the subject of scholarly analysis. Now, Paul H. Lewis has written a finely-crafted study that treats the reading public to a non-polemical look at the political structure of contemporary Paraguay.

Lewis discredits the "man on horseback" image often associated with the Paraguayan chief of state. Instead, the Stroessner portrayed here is a consummate politician whose durability in office can be traced to his use of a very modern set of strategies. By transforming the Colorado Party into a highly centralized and disciplined apparatus, Stroessner has enhanced his regime's ability to mobilize considerable support among the peasantry. At the same time, his manipulation of traditional hatreds and development of an "ideology" of *Coloradismo* have extended the Party's network into other social classes. Finally, Stroessner has co-opted the military and fused Party and state bureaucracies into a coherent unit, thus creating in Paraguay an insulated and self-sustaining regime.

The examination of Stroessner's political prowess is provocative and unusually well-balanced. Lewis relies extensively on secondary sources and material garnered from interviews with political exiles. With most primary materials under lock and key, the extent of Lewis's analysis is all the more remarkable. All opposition groups are described with reference to program and internal organization, including the Roman Catholic Church, which remains the most formidable opponent of the regime. Lewis, it should be noted, is no stranger to the world of Paraguayan opposition politics; his account of the Febrerista Party, *The Politics of Exile* (1968), provides the English-reading public with a rare look at underground activities in a South American context.

Some of the background information, however, is misleading. It is perhaps premature to draw too many conclusions from Colorado-Liberal rivalry in the late nineteenth century. One could debate, for example, whether Bernardino Caballero really represented an

"authoritarian socialist tradition" (p. 20). In fact, the Caballero government, along with other post-Triple Alliance war regimes, was responsible for the wholesale liquidation of public lands and state-owned industries, many of which passed directly into foreign hands. Such were hardly the actions of a socialist-oriented administration.

For the Stroessner period itself, several interesting lacunae might be noted. First, biographical details are sparse. We are told little of Stroessner's early life in the army or of his participation in the Chaco conflict. His pre-1947 party affiliations are also left shrouded in mystery. Second, Lewis does not discuss Stroessner's alleged support of expatriate Nazis, including the notorious Josef Mengele. Third, although he deals at length with the role of Epifanio Mendez Fleitas, leader of the leftist Movimiento Popular Colorado, Lewis fails to address the charge, made in 1975 by Philip Agee in *Inside The Company* (p. 342), that Mendez Fleitas was, in fact, an agent of the CIA. Such an analysis might place Stroessner's political opposition in a very different light.

None of these criticisms seriously impairs Lewis's achievement. He has taken a virtually unknown and, it might be added, somewhat dangerous subject and has rendered it understandable to both scholar and layman. His examination of political authoritarianism will doubtless prove useful in analyzing other situations in the Third World. Moreover, by blazing a frontier in Paraguayan studies, Lewis has made Stroessner less of an "untouchable" for researchers.

Thomas Lyle Whigham
Stanford University

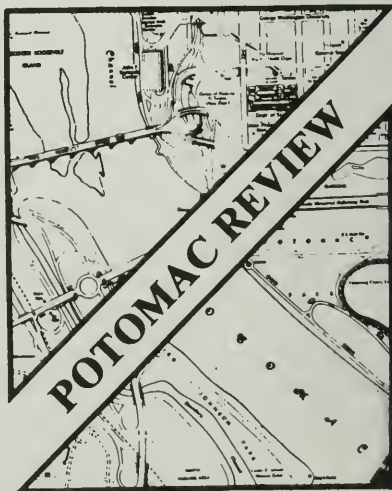
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