

Some instructors may prefer a text with maps and more lavish illustrations, but for a literate and intelligent narrative, *The Unfinished Journey* is an obvious choice.

Mississippi State University

Jeff Broadwater

Lillie Patterson. *Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Freedom Movement* New York & Oxford: Facts on File, 1989. Pp. xi, 178. Cloth, \$16.95.

Martin Luther King, Jr. died more than twenty years ago and it has been more than a quarter of a century since the passage of the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965. Since that time, scholarly works on the civil rights movement and King have been published at a rapidly accelerating rate as those turbulent years recede into historical memory. For secondary school and college students, the civil rights years have a fascinating and even romantic quality that generates interest in American history surveys and in specialized courses either on the movement itself, or on the 1960s. Lillie Patterson has written a book aptly suited for the former course of study. It is part of the Makers of America biography series for young adults and general readers, although college freshmen in a general survey would find it rewarding.

The author has followed a basic chronological chapter organization for the book following the major events in King's life. The first chapter, however, is on the Montgomery bus boycott that initially brought King to national attention. It is an excellent treatment of the Rosa Parks incident, the formation of the Montgomery Improvement Association, and the selection of King as the spokesman for the city's African-American population. The succeeding chapters begin with a chapter on his family and upbringing, followed by chapters on the Little Rock school integration crisis of 1957, the 1960 sit-in movement of black college students, the Freedom Ride protest against segregation in interstate transportation in 1961-1962, the abortive campaign in Albany, Georgia, and the more successful campaign in Birmingham, Alabama, the 1963 March on Washington, the Mississippi Summer Project of 1964 (Freedom Summer), the bloody, but victorious campaign in Selma, Alabama, that led to the passage of the Voting Rights Act, and the later years of King as he opposes the Vietnam War and initiates a "Poor People's Campaign" for economic justice to eliminate poverty in America. Patterson has written a work that has explored the career of Martin Luther King from Montgomery, desegregating public transportation, to his assassination in Memphis, aiding low income striking sanitation workers. She has told the story of the civil rights era in clear, concise, but moving prose that would appeal to general readers and students at the secondary school level. Obviously the book at 178 pages is neither as comprehensive nor as in-depth as some of the recent massive biographies of King and the movement, but it is thorough and covers the major events in his life.

Patterson's inclusion of freedom songs tied to major civil rights events provides a useful teaching tool. Students could be given assignments analyzing the lyrics of such songs as "Birmingham Sunday," which explores the bombing of a black church in which four girls attending Sunday School were killed on September 15, 1963, or "Hallelujah I'm a-Travelin'," sung by some of the Freedom Riders in the early 1960s. Patterson has included significant excerpts from some of the classic speeches and writings of Martin Luther King that could serve as a basis of class assignments: "A Letter from a Birmingham Jail;" "I Have a Dream" speech from the 1963 March on Washington; or his last, almost self-eulogistic speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," given on April 3, 1968, the day before he died. Her quotes from the writings and speeches of King are woven nicely through the text.

The book does not explore in depth the last years of King's life when his leadership was being challenged by younger more militant blacks nor the failure of King's venture into the North to obtain open housing in Chicago. Patterson does, however, provide an interesting and

moving account of the highlights of King's career and the civil rights movement that should motivate, capture the attention, and provide an intelligent opening to the exploration of the racial history of America.

Seton Hall University

Larry A. Greene

Lester D. Langley. *Mexico and the United States: The Fragile Relationship*. Twayne's International History Series. Boston: Twayne, 1991. Pp. xvi, 139. Paper, \$13.95.

This brief volume focuses not so much on Mexican-United States relations since World War II as on the evolving interrelationship between the two countries and its effects on bilateral issues. Langley finds former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt's statement that "Mexico and the United States are united by geography and divided by history" summarizes the common interpretation of the basis for United States-Mexican relations. He notes in this volume that since World War II, the development of the border region has reversed this: "In actuality, Mexico and the United States were once divided by geography and in modern times have been united by history. Neither government will admit it, but they have chosen this course."

Langley feels that the postwar intertwining of the two economies, born of Mexico's decision to give priority to industrialization and economic modernization over social equity, has shaped her postwar relationship with the United States. Both nations basically agree about the logic of Mexico's decision but arrive at their opinions from very different social and political perspectives. Despite growing economic interconnections, Langley believes that because of these different perspectives there are no simple or straightforward solutions to issues between the two nations. Despite a seeming commonality of interest in a series of mutual problems (illegal immigration and drug trafficking to name two current concerns), significant differences in the political culture and public psyche of each country have made it difficult to reach mutually satisfactory solutions.

Although intended for a general audience, this volume might present problems for the undergraduate reader. The book is arranged chronologically, rather than topically. It is an integrated, synthetic narrative, no doubt in order to avoid the discontinuities of the collected-articles approach frequently used in works on recent United States-Mexican relations. Chapter One broadly surveys Mexican-United States contacts from Independence to the Cárdenas administration. The five succeeding chapters discuss major issues in bilateral relations, using both the passage of Mexican presidential administrations and the development of major issues as organizing principles.

The chronological approach makes the narrative somewhat hard to follow. Trying to trace long-term bilateral issues to closure or abandonment becomes a daunting chore, even for someone already familiar with them. Novice students might become lost in the descriptions of innovative ideas later abandoned, and controversies that threatened, but ultimately did not much change, United States-Mexican relations.

This same organizational scheme, however, also produces the work's great strengths. Langley's narrative does illustrate the complex internal political dynamics of Mexico and the United States as these influence foreign policy choices for their presidents. From the United States's side, the book shows the impact of governmental bodies other than the State Department and the executive branch and the importance of regional public opinion in formulating general policy and specific approaches to salient issues. Langley also highlights the ways in which Mexico's internal political stresses, in large part fueled by those same economic choices that have drawn Mexico closer economically to the United States, often drive the