

collapse of the U.S.S.R., the old order gives way to something different, a new world disorder. To help the reader, Keylor includes good maps and tables. After reading this book, a student should have a broad and clear understanding of *Realpolitik* in this century.

This book can be used in many ways. As the main text, it can easily supplement class lectures. It can also be used as a counterpoint to compare other ideas. Henry Kissinger covers much of the same material in his *Diplomacy*, and he offers the personal view of a diplomat-academician strongly influenced by Metternich. Gabriel Kolko has also written a history of these years in *Century of War*. This generation of American students who have been barraged about markets and the vision of globalization might find such books as *Heart of Darkness* or *The Wretched of the Earth* worthwhile.

An instructor might also want to investigate further the role of nationalism within this international century. If, at century's start, the story of Little Black Sambo was a hopeful allegory of the eventual triumph of the natives over the haughty, self-centered colonial powers, then how prophetic was it? A number of states come to mind. Vietnam, Israel, Iran, India, Indonesia, Egypt, and Mexico are all examples of the forces of nationalism and anti-colonialism, but not all were successful. What new allegory could the students create or find to represent the current relationships? Keylor suggests another way to view the events of this century. Early in his text he mentions the importance of Alfred T. Mahan and Halford Mackinder as theorists for the powers of the twentieth century. Students could analyze their ideas and then test them against the events.

Keylor intentionally excludes most internal social and cultural histories so he can concentrate on international affairs. Though he cannot avoid the bloodshed of the century, he does not consider the horrors of the Holocaust, the Soviet purges, Cambodia, and Timor, to name a few, as international affairs. Yet these troubles continue. If there is a way to prevent these internal slaughters and international disputes, now that the old order has collapsed, Keylor offers the hope of collective security. As we finish this century, we will be the witnesses of this international order or disorder.

Lockport Township High School, Lockport, IL

Brian Boland

Lowell Gudmundson & Hector Lindo-Fuentes. *Central America, 1821-1871: Liberalism before Liberal Reform.* Tuscaloosa & London: University of Alabama Press, 1995. Pp. viii, 156. Paper, \$19.95. ISBN 0-8173-0765-6.

Central America represents a fine contribution to the developing field of Latin American scholarship. The structure of the book, however, demands the reader's familiarity with Central American history in its entirety. The interpretive framework constructed within the two essays of the book will appear confusing and unattractive to the secondary or even undergraduate student lacking a general grasp of the region. Although the authors intended their essays to provide the introductory-level student with "novel ways of thinking about the facts," the nature of nineteenth-century Central American

history commands a less elaborate and certainly a less sophisticated argument for the first or even second-time student of the period.

For the graduate student or instructor of Latin America, however, this book remains necessary and required reading. Stemming from meetings in Costa Rica in 1989 and 1991, the authors successfully put forth a new interpretation that demonstrates how the Liberal reform mechanizations merely represented "a situation long in the making." Such a conclusion radically clashes with those who believe that the Liberal reforms proved genuine in redirecting the isthmus and its future into the twentieth-century. Each essay offers a new interpretative framework as well as an excellent synopsis of the advancements in the historiography within the last twenty years.

The first essay, "The Economy of Central America: From Bourbon Reforms to Liberal Reforms," by Héctor Lindo-Fuentes, examines Central America's economy immediately following independence. It then analyzes the import and export market activity and the subsequent effects of the "increased commercial activity along the Pacific coast after mid-century." Using primary and secondary Spanish and English sources, Lindo-Fuentes successfully unveils the first component in restructuring the dynamic mid-nineteenth-century Central America. In short, "the Liberal reforms developing throughout the period only formalized a situation long in the making." Eight pictures, four tables, and one map aid the reader in understanding the evolving role the isthmus would play in the international arena.

Lowell Gudmundson's "Society and Politics in Central America, 1821-1871" forms the second half of the book and "offers a reinterpretation of the meaning of both the Liberal-Conservative conflict and many of the most conflictive political issues of the time." Like its companion essay, this one incorporates a variety of both Spanish and English primary and secondary sources. Perhaps more successfully accomplished here than in the other essay, Gudmundson skillfully weaves travelers' accounts as well as political rhetoric of the period through his essay. Additionally, four pictures, three tables, and two maps help illuminate the reader's imagination.

While both essays help pave the way for future historiographical advancement and maturation, perhaps the "Suggestions for Further Reading" section at the end of the book offers both student and teacher alike a reason to glance at this publication. Written in descriptive and paragraph form, this section, divided into eight parts, provides the reader much needed insight and direction into the multifarious world of Central American historiography.

Cabrini College

Michael Edmondson