United States and Mexico has never appeared more important. Where unbiased perspective and sound analysis is needed, Corwin's book unfortunately is flawed with biased opinions and contradictory arguments.

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RICARDO ROMO


Having written a book on the origins of black slavery in Brazil at the time of the sugar economy of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Marcin Kula has now tried his hand at contemporary history. This well written and adequately documented work is an abridged version of his habilitacja—a second-degree doctoral thesis, corresponding to the French doctorat d'Etat or the German Habilitationsschrift—presented to the Academic Council of the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. It is to be regretted that the language of the publication will not make it easy for Latinamericanists to use it until such time as it is translated into Spanish.

The most valuable source materials Kula has drawn upon are Cuban manuscripts in the Archivo Nacional and the Biblioteca Nacional—Archivo S. Vilaseca. In addition, some documents from private collections in Cuba have been consulted as well as others from British and Polish archives and secondary sources in the Spanish, English, Polish, and Russian languages.

Cuban politics of 1933–1935 have been analyzed with reference to U.S. policies, labor movements, and nationalist currents. The emphasis is on revolutionary nationalism as the essence of the revolutionary movement and government projected by a group of students and intellectuals. Predominantly descriptive, the book contains some rather exciting remarks on Cuban revolutionary nationalism as compared with Latin American populism and the nationalism of the 1930s. Revolutionary nationalism had no mass following, the author says, while populism had it by definition. Revolutionary nationalism espoused the anti-imperialist program along with a quest for radical social change, whereas the "movements of national emancipation" and, indeed, populism failed to take up structural reform and other issues of the day. Revolutionary nationalism, as defined by Kula, fits neither Whitaker's nor Jordan's typology of nationalism and the author is perfectly aware of that. The views aired in this book will certainly invite debate.

In Professor Kula's opinion, the decline of the revolutionary govern-
ment was responsible for the rise of the pro-U.S. Batista regime. In a way, he confirms James D. Cockcroft’s predictions on the demise of the reformist model in Latin America: “Latin Americans are left with only two viable alternatives for establishing their political identities: revolutionary nationalism or pro-U.S. militarism.” The Cuban revolutionaries did not give up. Following the fall of the government in question, Antonio Guiteras stated: “Esa fase de nuestra historia es la génesis de la revolución que se prepara—que no constituirá un movimiento político con más o menos disparos de canón, sino una profunda transformación de nuestra estructura económico-político-social.” Marcin Kula offers us a convincing picture of the people, actions, and ideas that Fidel Castro embraced at the very outset of what was originally meant as a continuation of revolutionary nationalism and later evolved into a formula of internationalist revolutionary activity.

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RYSZARD STEMPELÓWSKI


Many books have been written, chiefly by North Americans, extolling Puerto Rico’s experiment in economic development as a lesson for other Third World countries and as a showcase for democracy. Other books, written chiefly by Puerto Ricans, have been critical of the island’s total dependence on the United States and of the industrialization program or Operation Bootstrap, as it was called, for reinforcing this dependence.

This book, written by a European, Sakari Sariola, attempts to steer a middle ground between the developmentalists who champion the Puerto Rican case and those who criticize dependency. The author tries to avoid committing himself to any one position in the continual ideological debate among the proponents of statehood, independence, or the present commonwealth status. Instead, he delves into a long and sometimes tedious analysis of Puerto Rico’s historical dependency, starting with Spanish colonization and proceeding through American intervention to the present day. While forced to recognize the failure of “Operation Bootstrap” and the ideological bankruptcy of commonwealth status, which has polarized political sentiments on the island, Sariola persists in the notion that “permanent union” with the United States is irreversible, due to the structural changes which decades of dependency have wrought. He writes: “Political leaders must take