Soviet position on the relationship between the United States and Latin America. Its dozen essays purportedly examine such topics as American monopolies and transnationals, recent Republican administrations’ policies toward Latin America, and criticism of various Latin American theories of revolution.

Since the essays are polemical, they present few statistics, charts, or graphs and they rely mostly on newspaper articles from the United States and Latin America and on quotations from Lenin. Therefore the volume is more a guide to Soviet thinking on Latin America than a source of information on the region itself. For example, the preface mentions dependency theory as a generally accepted belief of the “progressive elements” in Latin America and the United States, but never discusses it. Both the Allende regime in Chile and the “ultra-left wing” in Latin America receive minimal attention. Even Cuba’s role in the “anti-imperialist struggle” gets short shrift. Any Latin Americanist determined to read a recent work in Russian published in the USSR on current events in Latin America should probably skip this one.

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This book will be of very little interest to readers of this journal. The material covering the Guggenheims’ activities in Latin America has already been covered more completely in works by Harvey O’Connor, Isaac Marcossen, Cattenby Williams (pseud. William Guggenheim) and Marvin Bernstein. As for Harry F. Guggenheim’s tenure as ambassador to Cuba in the late 1920s, nothing of value to a professional historian is included, except a reference to an M.A. thesis at Princeton that covered that topic.

Mr. Davis has given us a compilation of some professional research, some gossip, and the results of many interviews. The result is a fascinating book, for those who are interested in that sort of thing, and I enjoyed reading it. At times, though, the rhetoric breaks down: “It was, in the end, a case of the right man meeting the right man at the right time. What Diaz wanted, Guggenheim, and only Guggenheim, was prepared to provide. What Guggenheim wanted, Diaz and only Diaz, was empowered to give” (p. 68). There are a number of quotable quotes such as Solomon Guggenheim telling his nephews: “Never make love to a woman before breakfast, you might have a better offer before lunch” (p. 204). Or the remark of a fifth-generation daughter: “O.K., we’re one-quarter Jewish, but we’re proud of it, because that’s where all the money comes from” (p. 479). One is bound to admire Uncle Sol’s machismo if not his potency, and the honesty of the daughter if not her tolerance. This is an enjoyable book about a most unusual family.

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