nomic characteristics and the history of settlement in each place. The book also includes thirty-one pages of documents concerning the war and the early settlement of Rio Grande do Sul, in addition to a long manifesto written by Bento Gonçalves da Silva, the leader of the Rio Grandense revolutionary movement of 1835.

University of Kansas

ELIZABETH KUZNESOF


Goes is one of Brazil’s most astute political commentators. As the chief of the Brasília office of the *Jornal do Brasil*, one of the country’s two most important newspapers, he closely accompanied the inner workings of the administration of President Ernesto Geisel (1974–1979).

The book opens with a long chapter about presidential style, the sources and kinds of information on which decisions were made, and the evolution of the institutional structures that reflected the personality of the president. Two case studies follow: one dealing with the selection of incumbent president João Baptista Figueiredo as the government’s fifth military president since 1964 and the other with the abrupt dismissal in 1977 of War Minister Sylvio Fróta for opposing Geisel’s political plans. The final chapters examine the ideological motivations and concerns of the bureaucratic elites and the military who govern Brazil (chapter 4) and with foreign policy questions, particularly U.S.–Brazilian relations, in the concluding chapter.

Goes’ analysis is sharp and incisive. His concern with conceptual issues nicely contrasts with his case studies. All in all, this is a well written and timely volume about the five years of Geisel’s rule.

Johns Hopkins University

RIORDAN ROETT


This is an ambitious and intelligently written book which seeks to explain why Peru has failed to develop into a true nation-state with full control over its economy and government. The author, the prominent Peruvian sociologist Julio Cotler, believes that the answer can be found in Peru’s colonial heritage which began under Spain and has endured under the domination of international capitalism.

At the end of the Spanish colonial period European capital easily penetrated Peru, reinforcing the precapitalist social structure. Precapitalist forms of exploiting the Indians endured and the dominance of foreign capital retarded the development of a national bourgeoisie with significant control over economic production. This has been reflected throughout Peruvian history whenever factions allied with foreign capital, particularly the export oligarchy, have placed their own economic interests ahead of those of the nation as a whole. The working classes, moreover, frequently have been coopted politically because of alliances between APRA, their traditional party, and the oligarchy. While it has formed alliances with the oligarchy, the mili-