are briefly made, but a clear picture emerges nonetheless of an evolving system of numerous parts and wide connections whose working was necessarily changed by the insertion of a new part. Indeed, so closely fitted were the articulations of the system and so ineluctable its internal adjustments that one wonders why the actors in that recent past could not foresee the results of their behavior. Instead, the future was the mystery to them that ours remains to us, and perhaps even their present seemed as intractably fragmented as our own.

University of Minnesota

WARD J. BARRETT


"Christopher Columbus discovered Cuba in his first voyage, in 1492," Saverio Tuttino begins his book. This point of departure of the "breve historia" serves to underscore the brevity indeed of this paperback history of the Cuban Revolution: Columbus to Castro in 233 pages. Insofar as this book is representative of a genre, however, it is actually quite good. The writing is unaffected and, at times, even quite elegant. The book is designed to enlighten an intelligent lay public—a public already predisposed in its sympathies for the Cuban Revolution. Tuttino moves across four hundred years of Cuban history gracefully, concentrating his attention on the twentieth century with particular focus on the 1950s and early 1960s.

At one time, this was an excellent introduction to Cuba and the Revolution. The sections dealing with the 1940s and the *battistato* of the 1950s read well and are particularly good. Unfortunately, there is really little new. The data is familiar and the interpretations quite standard. In fact, the book is very much dated. Published originally in Italian in 1966, the translated Spanish text thirteen years later ends with Playa Girón.

As far as he goes, Tuttino has provided a very readable synthesis of Cuban history. Readers will find this book useful as an introduction to a subject about which so much has been written in the last ten years.

University of South Florida

LOUIS A. PÉREZ, JR.


This collection of speeches, interviews, and documents concerning the victory of the *Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional* in Nicaragua adds little to our knowledge about that country. Aside from a brief introduction, there is very little context in which to put the material presented. The collection contains no discussion of the composition of the Sandinistas, scant information on their long struggle for power, and no analytical framework which would help us better understand the complex series of events leading to the overthrow of the regime of Anastasio Somoza Debayle. However, the speech by Fidel Castro on the victory of the Nicaraguan Revolution, the interview with the new Minister of Agrarian Reform, Jaime Wheelock, and the statement by Sandinista Daniel Ortega do make interesting reading. For one familiar with the events in Nicaragua the book is worth reading. But for those unfamiliar with Nicaragua, a book containing more background information would be of greater use.

University of Arizona

MILTON JAMAIL