

Cline and the Mexican neo-científicos among them, hold, on the contrary, that technology will always be able to assure a sufficient food supply for the population, regardless of expansion. The spectacular success of Mexico in this respect during the past twenty years is held to be proof of the fallacy of Malthus. All lovers of Mexico rejoice at her achievement, and it looks like mere doctrinaire carping to interject a caveat at this point. And yet it is surely dangerous folly to think that the race is won. Over vast areas of the globe people are suffocating in their own numbers, and Mexico, with her staggering increase of three per cent a year, must eventually face the rebellion of the soil. Dams, irrigation systems, fertilizers, insecticides, new crops, mechanization—anything you like—have made this explosion inevitable. The crisis is world-wide, and Mexico cannot escape its implications. Nor can we.

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An Affair of Honor. Woodrow Wilson and the Occupation of Veracruz. By ROBERT E. QUIRK. Lexington, Kentucky, 1962. University of Kentucky Press. Notes. Index. Pp. 184. \$5.00.

This brief monograph is exactly what its subtitle, "Woodrow Wilson and the Occupation of Veracruz," indicates it is. For his Veracruz manuscript, the author was awarded the second annual Mississippi Valley Historical Association prize for research in a phase of American history. The virtues of the book on the basis of which the award presumably was made are these: The organization is sound and easy to follow, and the style is clear and forceful. The author has made full use of the primary sources available to him. These consist chiefly of the State Department and consular records and the War and Navy Department files of the United States National Archives, certain newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *World* and the *Mexican Herald*, and periodicals such as *Collier's Magazine* and *Scribner's Magazine*, a number of memoirs, private papers, and biographical works dealing with the Woodrow Wilson administration and Wilson himself, the Mexican Defensa Nacional records, and, in view of the unavailability of the Mexican Foreign Relations files, the officially inspired *Diario Oficial*, *Periódico Oficial de Veracruz*, and *Gaceta Oficial de Veracruz* of 1914, and, toward the end, the author's own *The Mexican Revolution, 1914-1915*. The reader puts the book down with the feeling that he has learned all that it is worth while to know about the 1914 occupation of Veracruz and the famous incidents at Tampico which prepared the way for the Veracruz action.

Quirk is at his best in describing the remarkable program of sanitation carried out in Veracruz by the American military forces, as well as a similar operation performed at the notorious fortress-prison of San Juan de Ulua.

Attention needs to be called to a few limitations or arguable points of view. On a very minor note, a diagram and picture of Veracruz in 1914 would have been helpful to the reader. More importantly, the book suffers a little bit from its limited scope: the narrative deals almost entirely with an eight months period in 1914, and with one specific crisis of that period. For this reason, the monograph falls short of first-ranking significance. Also, the author's feat in covering the sources so thoroughly is not quite so remarkable for a subject in which there was not such a great variety to examine. Mr. Quirk is very critical of President Wilson's Mexican policy in general and of his "moral imperialism" as the cause of the Veracruz intervention, viewpoints that are quite widely held today. It seems a little too severe, however, to describe his Mexican policy as "by all counts" a failure, for surely the avoidance of full-scale war, if nothing else, was no small accomplishment. And, in view of the lurid circumstances of Huerta's accession to power, and the kind of political system that he symbolized, Wilson's non-recognition, and, ultimately, interventionist, policy might be viewed a little more charitably as an understandable error. A few statements, none of them important to his story, that the author makes in the earlier pages may be disputable: For instance, Huerta was not necessarily an incompetent army commander, as his 1912 campaign against Orozco demonstrated. And American historians have not been noteworthy for their widespread agreement that the Mexican War was an aggressive act by the United States.

Summing up, this is a very good, though limited, study of a phase of Mexican-American relations during the period of the Mexican Revolution. Though valuable, it probably will not be regarded as equal in importance to Mr. Quirk's earlier study, *The Mexican Revolution, 1914-1915: The Convention of Aguascalientes*.

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The United States and Pancho Villa. A Study in Unconventional Diplomacy. By CLARENCE C. CLENDENEN. Ithaca, 1961. Cornell University Press. American Historical Association. Albert J. Beveridge Memorial Fund. Illustrations. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. 352. \$5.75.

Francisco "Pancho" Villa is surely one of the more colorful yet obscure figures of recent history. During much of the first decade of