
Saúl Litvinoff
BOOK REVIEW


This work undoubtedly makes an important contribution, satisfying a great need. The relevance of the Latin-American and Caribbean scenes as areas where there is concentrated a great deal of American concern, whether political, economical or strategical, is beyond any question; and, thanks to Professor Bayitch’s painstaking efforts, access to vast portions of the problems of these areas has been greatly facilitated.

Full coverage has been given to the subject in width and depth. The book is divided into six parts. Part one contains an exhaustive listing of bibliographies and reference works published by institutions and individual authors which cover everything from a bibliography of Latin-American paperback books to a listing of entries on Latin America in Soviet writings. The up-dating of this collection of data adds considerably to the usefulness and value of the reviewed work. Part two is devoted to books furnishing general information about the area, ranging from Latin America’s trees to an analysis of American discontent in Latin America. Part three covers the fundamentals and background and contains a compilation of works on the people, culture, law, society, history, and the impact made by different European countries and the United States in the development and historical evolution of the vast subcontinent and the islands. Part four comprises a guide by subjects, such as the text of constitutions, copyright, armed forces, and commodities as coal, tin, and wool. This part is subdivided in a general section and two others specialized in the Caribbean and Central America. A most detailed analysis prevails in the three sections equally. Part five provides a guide by countries where each entry, in alphabetical order, is given a prolix treatment ranging from monopolies in Argentina to politics in Venezuela. Part six concentrates in the Caribbean divided by countries, independent and dependent, covering everything from court reports to fisheries and housing problems.

This distribution of contents allows the reader to reach very rapidly the necessary sources and references on the problem of his interest, whether general or particular, whether concerned with an individual country or with the area at large.
If it is recognized that information is the top valuable contemporary kind of commodity, it can be said that this bibliography is a step forward in the task of preparing the ground for a better understanding of the problems of these important areas, for the benefit of scholars, practicing attorneys, and/or businessmen.

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