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Subject History 208
Date February 22, 1956
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Standing _____

BLUE BOOK

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1. There were many factors favoring the creation of federal types of government in Latin America in the early 19th Century.

In the first place, the wars for independence had been largely federal - that is, they were not closely organized wars but were rather widespread encounters depending upon much personal initiative.

Geographically, the new nations were not at all centralized. Settlements were usually small and fairly well isolated. The great influx toward the cities had not begun in a very great degree.

Because of the lack of roads and quick transportation it was far from practical to attempt to rule

solely from the capitals.

Because some countries, especially Brazil, were almost feudal in their physical-sociological setup, great landholders in the backlands had acquired amazing power over their particular regions.

Then, too, the constitutions (early) of Latin America were much more ideal than the constitution of the United States. And, to a newly independent people, federalism seemed the ideal form of government.

The mestizos, the silent majority, had little or no voice in the framing of these constitutions, so it was largely the work of the whites. And these whites, usually rich and powerful, were fearful

of forming a government which might deprive them of their accustomed privileges.

For these reasons, the early constitutions of Latin America were federal in essence.

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2. The policy of the United States, France and Spain was in part determined by time.

The United States began recognition in Latin America by recognizing San Colombia. Naturally, the other countries followed as soon as they had won their independence.

Of course, in all cases, the details of tradeings were great factors in determining recognition. Latin America wanted recognition, so it usually was willing to give a fairly good deal so far as trading was concerned.

France was eager to recognize Latin America. Not only was it pleasant to realize the economic benefits of trade, but France had

not been eyeing Argentina, for example, with the idea of perhaps annexing it.

Spain was not, of course, too eager to extend recognition, but upon the death of Ferdinand, the countries were gradually recognized.

The United States was glad to see a European power leave America, so its recognition was quite prompt.

But, generally, as time passed and the countries had realized their independence and could offer suitable trade agreements, they were recognized by all.

3. President Diaz attempted to solve Mexico's basic problems by what may be called compromise.

One great problem of his time was the controversy over the clergy. Diaz, a 33° Mason and nominal Catholic, swayed between both factions. To the delight of the intellectuals and anti-clericals, he ~~enforced~~ enforced the reform laws sporadically, but, on the other hand, had his wife work as a peacemaker with the Church and often formed new congregations (orden) when others were disbanded.

It is not the part of the dictator to have much contact with foreign governments, but Diaz relied heavily upon foreign capital to

improve the logging economy of his own country.

The sale of Church lands by liberals was done with the intention of helping the landless masses. But, as it turned out, the lands were bought by already wealthy landholders.

Diaz was closely allied with these landholders because they seemed at least to represent security and stability. But the voices of the Indians and mestizos, the great majority in Mexico, were not heard.

It has been said that the reign of Diaz was ~~not~~ fairly non-fictitious. At any rate, there are no memorials to him in Mexico except in his home town of Oaxaca.

5. a. Caudillo - the "boss", a name that has stood, in many cases, for oppression and tyranny. A caudillo is a political "chief" in the governmental setups of Latin America.

b. Benito Juárez - the ~~man~~ man of Indian ancestry who rose to become president of Mexico in the later 19th century. A fairly just, kind man, his leanings were more or less liberal.

c. Facundo Quiroga - the perfect example of an ignorant, crude, cruel caudillo. Under Rosas of Argentina, he will always be remembered for his irrationality and barbarism.

d. Centralism - the form of government which places the bulk of power in the hands of the central government. In Latin America centralism has usually been easy prey for dictators.

f. Santa Anna - professional soldier and deceiver. The alleged "protector of Mexico", he sold his country short many times while winning over the populace by his theatrical manner and ability to "soft-soap."



