
The Development of
Hispanic
America

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**THE DEVELOPMENT OF
HISPANIC AMERICA**

Dedicated
to the memory of
JAMES ALEXANDER ROBERTSON
a true friend and a renowned scholar
and to
HERBERT EUGENE BOLTON
an inspiring teacher, a valued friend, and a pioneer
in the field of
Hispanic American historical research

PREFACE

The writing of a history of the twenty countries of Hispanic America is not unlike the writing of a history of the collective states of Europe; both present similar, difficult problems—the selection of subject matter, the presentation of the development of each country in such a way that the general picture will not be distorted, and the treatment of the cross-sectional relationships of the several countries. In dealing with Hispanic American history, as with European history, textbook writers have been guided somewhat by classroom usage, as shown by student requirements, and by pedagogical demands.

During the past two decades college and university instruction in Hispanic American history has become somewhat stereotyped, whether or not the course is offered for one or two semesters or for two, three, or four quarters. Generally the colonial period is treated topically, while the period since independence is presented by countries, with some reference to common cross-sectional problems especially in the field of foreign relations. In organizing the subject matter in this volume I have attempted no radical departure from orthodoxy, believing that most teachers prefer to continue to present the development of the Hispanic American nations in much the same manner as in the past.

The volume is divided into two essential sections: the period from earliest times through the revolutions for independence, and the period since about 1824, including the international relations of the several countries. Thus, where two semesters are devoted to the subject of Hispanic American history, the first part may coincide with the first semester and the second part with the second semester. Where only one semester is allotted to the whole course of Hispanic American development, the teacher may select the points for emphasis from the book as a whole.

I have made no attempt to include all of the facts of Hispanic American

history in this text, first because that would be impossible, and second because no teacher who lectures welcomes a text which presents all the subject matter of his course. I have, however, attempted to present a balanced picture of the development of Hispanic America from the earliest times through 1940, although in the discussion of each country the decade of the Depression is emphasized. This concentration of attention has seemed justified because the last ten years have been crucial ones in the development of Hispanic American civilization. This emphasis, with the background material which precedes it, should make the book of especial interest to students of the contemporary scene in Hispanic America. Because there is no satisfactory atlas for Hispanic America I have distributed throughout the text more than the usual number of maps in the expectation that these may be useful "windows of history." The footnotes direct the reader to English articles and monographs pertinent to the subject under discussion, while more general readings are listed at the ends of chapters or at the ends of certain sections. Two other types of material are also included in the footnotes: uniform outlines of Hispanic American constitutions (supplemented by further outlines in Appendix B), and brief factual summaries of political changes. Foreign terms, however, are not defined in the footnotes; terms with which the student will not be familiar are defined and explained in a glossary in Appendix A. Appendix C contains a select list of leading works in all languages and will interest chiefly teachers and graduate students. Because it is often significant to know the age of individuals at the time they embarked upon important undertakings I have given, wherever possible, the years of birth (and death as well) of the persons mentioned in the text.

To uncounted and unmentioned scholarly and popular authors every textbook writer owes his knowledge of his subject and his ability to present an effective panorama of his field of interest. In citing references I have indicated the extent of my indebtedness, although in an inadequate way. To two scholars who have personally inspired and influenced me—Dr. Herbert Eugene Bolton, and the late Dr. James Alexander Robertson—this book is gratefully and affectionately dedicated.

I have been fortunate in having the assistance of the Misses Antoinette Torre, Beatrice Fleischman, Phyllis Nichols, and Carmel Sullivan, and of Mr. Henry Gray and Mr. William Ormsby Ticknor, who helped me with the tedious work of checking dates and reading proof, and with other

minutiae. The staff of the Pan American Union, and especially that of the Library of that institution, has been exceedingly generous with its assistance. I am grateful, too, to three of my students—James Kolinski, Joaquín Mattei, and Louis A. Fernández—for their preparation of the glossary of foreign terms. The patient assistance of my wife has been invaluable during the long months of work on the final manuscript. The criticisms and comments invited in the preface of a preliminary text entitled *A History of Hispanic America* (Washington, D.C., 1931), and received from widely scattered sources in various parts of the world, have, I hope, enhanced the value of the present work. Nevertheless the sins of omission and commission are my own.

A. C. W.

The George Washington University
January 1, 1941

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BACKGROUNDS
