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Texts in Chinese Studies: Sources of Chinese Tradition

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the independence in 1810, Bishop Abad y Queipo had spoken about the urgent need for a land reform. The Conservative Party and one of its foremost spokesmen, don Lucas Alamán, had dealt with the problem. Conservatives and liberals agreed on the need of a land reform. Both made programs to that end. The expropriation of the lands owned by the corporations of the Catholic Church, was one of those programs, and so was the expropriation of communal lands in the villages. But it was not until the great Revolution of 1910 that land reform was implemented fully, a process still going on in Mexico. Naturally quite a few of those ideas which gave direction to reforms had come from outside Mexico, but as determined by the urgency of the problems, the social theories were converted into programs of reform and mexicanized to the extent that today it is difficult to tell the foreign ideas from the Mexican.

And so with the labor problems. Sometimes solutions might have been proposed in the far left, but the programs implementing those solutions, have always been different from the theories, have been in essence Mexican.

Victor Alba shows a very important fact. Against the widespread legend of utter confusion on the history of independent Mexico, we find the country always following a direct path toward the solution of its problems. As those problems were urgent and, to a certain extent, invariable, the solutions offered might have differed in certain ways, but they could never get away from the total setting of the problem.

Some of Alba's conclusions may be interesting to the Filipino reader. He observes for example, that "by some strange alchemy in the Hispanic nations, all the problems become political problems, all ideas are metamorphosed into political ideas".

As a side note, we call attention to a remark by Alba that "Marxism never had an influence in the Mexican labour movement". The social ideas and movements of Mexico, from the wars of independence to the revolution of 1910 were, as has been noted, of definitely Mexican characteristics. The same can not be said about the other countries in Latin America.

Victor Alba's book ends with a very complete bibliography.

RAFAEL BERNAL

TEXTS IN CHINESE STUDIES

SOURCES OF CHINESE TRADITION. Compiled by W. M. Theodore De Bary, Wing-Tsit Chan and Burton Watson. New York: Columbia University Press, 1960. 976 pp.

This book appeared in the series of "Records of Civilization" published by the Department of History, Columbia University. This is the third and last volume on the civilizations of China, Japan and India. All these volumes are translations of original texts, anthologies with comments.

This volume has 160 pages on the pre-Han period, 590 pages on the period from the Han to the Opium War, and 200 pages from the Opium War to the present day including writings of Mao and even the Hundred Flowers. A 7-page bibliography and a 19-page index are added.

In the body of the book are inserted excellent general explanations, unfortunately not distinguished by printing type, and the texts are preceded by brief introductions cleverly chosen from Chinese books.

The book is a mine of information about the history of China but each text is too short to give more than a vague idea about the author's ideas. The whole book is too long and cumbersome to serve as a general reader, although the book, as the dust-cover says, is meant "to provide an exciting introduction to the background of contemporary civilization in China".

It is not a book for experts nor yet a book for the general reader who wants to sit down and read an intelligent book on Chinese history. Ancient Chinese texts, well translated though they may be, are heavy and boring reading for the uninitiated to whom this book is addressed. (That "the great man can regard heaven, earth and myriad things as one body is not because he deliberately wants to do so, but because it is natural with the human nature of his mind that he should form a unity with heaven, earth and the myriad things".) Nevertheless the book has the merit of having collected in one volume texts throughout Chinese history which may create the pleasant illusion in the reader that he possesses a key to Chinese civilization.

L. LA DANY

ECONOMIC REPORT

ECONOMIC SURVEY OF ASIA AND THE FAR EAST 1962.

Issued by the Secretariat of ECAFE. Bangkok: United Nations Publication (Sales Number: 63.II.F.1), 1963. 234 pp.

This report, issued by the Secretariat of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, will prove very helpful to students of economics. The survey gives a deep insight into the analytical frame-