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Rizal's Spain: Historia Politica De La España Contemporanea

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RIZAL'S SPAIN

HISTORIA POLITICA DE LA ESPAÑA CONTEMPORANEA (Regencia de Doña María Cristina de Austria durante la menor edad de su hijo Don Alfonso XIII). By Melchor Fernández Almagro. Madrid: Ediciones Pegaso, 1959. xv, 927 pp.

The volume under review is a reminder of the pressing need for a deeper knowledge of Spanish history for the proper understanding of events in the Philippines during the colonial period. No doubt this is true of every period of Philippine colonial history, but of none more than the period here in question, when the Filipinos of the Propaganda Movement were carrying on their struggle for national liberties principally in Spain. Marcelo H. del Pilar and Graciano López Jaena, among others, were deeply involved in Spanish politics, and the work of *LA SOLIDARIDAD* cannot begin to be understood without reference to the contemporary Spanish political scene, as a reading of almost any issue will show.

The present work is a continuation of the author's earlier volume covering the reign of Alfonso XII (1875-1885). Like the latter, it is a detailed narration of the political events of the period, following rather closely the chronological order, and limiting itself to political and military events. The picture of Spanish political life during this period is not a pleasant one. The Conservatives and Liberals who alternated in power, with a few notable exceptions, were unwilling or unable to bring about meaningful democracy in Spain, nor were they able to take the radical and far-seeing steps necessary to raise their country from her decadent state. The almost universal electoral corruption, the bickering of petty political interests, joined with personal antagonisms, the irresponsibility of much of the press, the growing social inequality and consequent unrest—such a situation does much to explain why no effectual and enlightened reforms could be expected in Spain's colonies overseas.

The author gives a detailed—perhaps an excessively detailed—account of the political scene, quoting at length from speeches of leading politicians. The revolts in Cuba and in the Philippines and the Spanish-American War are likewise treated in detail, almost battle by battle. The treatment of the Spanish political arena is useful for following the course of events, though it remains an external history for the most part. There is little of the behind-the-scenes activity which determined political events, for though a certain number of unpublished documents are among those contained in the lengthy *Apéndice documental*, published works seemed to have been the chief sources, together with contemporary newspapers.

The sections of the book devoted to the Philippines will not offer anything new to the Philippine historian, and are, in fact, sadly de-

ficient. The only source apparently used for the treatment of the Katipunan, for example, is the highly prejudiced and inaccurate account of Castillo y Jiménez, from 1897, no account being taken of later Filipino historical work. The interpretation of the Philippine Revolution as primarily a "lucha de razas" (the author more than once gives evidence of racial prejudice) is surely inaccurate, and the mention of the "tagalo idólatra" (p. 337) shows a lamentable ignorance of the Philippines.

The entire account of the Revolution is based on the post-war accounts of Sastrón and of a few Spanish army officers, and no Filipino account seems to have been used at all. A profound knowledge of Philippine historiography is perhaps not to be demanded of one writing on Spanish history, but if so lengthy and detailed a treatment as that in the text is to be given to the Philippines, historical objectivity and accuracy demand more than repeating impassioned contemporary accounts. Frequent misspellings of Philippine place names, as well as other inaccuracies, contribute to make the account of events in the Philippines quite unreliable.

In spite of the serious criticisms made here, the book is of value for its convenient presentation of the political life in Spain during these years, if its limitations are kept in mind. One hopes that its lack of consciousness of historical work done in the Philippines will not prevent Philippine historians from making use of it as an aid to the knowledge of Spanish political history needed for an adequate study of the work of the Filipino Propagandists in Spain.

JOHN N. SCHUMACHER

PASTORAL PSYCHOLOGY

COUNSELLING THE CATHOLIC. By George Hagmaier, C.S.P., and Robert W. Gleason, S.J. New York, Sheed and Ward, 1959.

Catholics in the recent past have felt somewhat uneasy in the face of modern psychology and psychiatry. Such a feeling was in great part a reaction on the part of churchmen against attacks upon religion by Freud and other analysts who openly professed a materialistic philosophy and identified religion itself with neurosis. Moreover traditional Catholic teaching on free will and sin apparently seemed to clash with the new psychology's doctrine on the unconscious and its emphasis on sexual motivation.

The clash was unfortunate because Catholic philosophy and asceticism had much to gain from the tremendous discoveries of the new science of psychology. It is only now, as the animosities die