
REPORTS

THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA IN THE U.S.S.R.*

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ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION WITH THE countries of Latin America are on the increase. Annually expanding cultural and scientific relations serve to stimulate the growing interest of the Soviet people in Latin America's rich historical background, its distinctive culture, and the present day problems of that part of the world. Russian interest in Latin America extends over a long period of time. I should like to emphasize, therefore, that this interest in Latin America and the life of its people is not a passing fancy and did not develop overnight. This interest has its own history. Permit me to recount a few facts.

The first word of the New World in Russia dates back to 1530, and is recorded in the manuscript of the learned monk, Maxim Grek, who came to Moscow at the invitation of the Russian Tsar Basil III. In one of his commentaries, Maxim Grek makes special mention of Cuba, and this is the first geographic reference to the New World known in the Russian language. In the latter part of the eighteenth century, during the years 1782–1784, Feodor Karzhavin, the Russian writer and translator, visited Cuba. All available evidence indicates that he was the first Russian to have spent some time in Latin America. One of the first Latin Americans to visit Russia, during 1786–1787, was the distinguished leader of the liberation movement of the peoples of Latin America, Francisco Miranda, who sought support of European governments.

The study of Latin America by Russian researchers begins in the first

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quarter of the nineteenth century. From 1821 to 1828, an expedition to Brazil was undertaken by the Russian scholar, academician G. I. Langsdorf. The expedition produced a major study of the indigenous population of the Amazon River basin.

The struggle for liberation by the peoples of the colonies of Spain and Portugal gained great sympathy in the progressive circles of Russia. Trade relations evolved between Russia and Latin America in the 1830's and 1840's, and cultural relations were established in the last half of the century. At that time, diplomatic relations between Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Uruguay and Russia were also established.

The growth of scientific interest in the study of problems of that part of the world and research on the life, customs, and culture of its peoples expanded apace with the broadening ties between Latin America and Russia. In the second half of the nineteenth century and in the beginning of the twentieth century, many Russian scholars visited Latin America to study its natural phenomena, climate, fauna, and flora. Among them was the founder of Russian climatology, Alexander Voikov, the geographer and ethnographer, Veniukov, and the botanist, Al'bov. A clear indication of the interest of Russian researchers in the countries of Latin America was the complex expedition of 1915, composed of five young Russian scholars joined to study different scientific aspects of this region of the world. Their purpose was to study the natural life of South America, the material and spiritual culture of the Indians, and to compile ethnographic and zoological collections.

Direct ties and contacts between scientific institutions of Russia and the countries of Latin America were established before World War I. In 1910, for example, the Physiological Institute of Moscow University sent its scientific works to Caracas, Montevideo, Havana, the Museum of Natural History in Valparaiso, and others. The Naturalist Society of St. Petersburg exchanged publications with the National Museum of São Paulo and with the scientific societies of Montevideo and Santiago. The National Library of Rio de Janeiro exchanged books with the public libraries of St. Petersburg, Odessa, and the library of Moscow University.

The bases for research on Latin America, and ties between institutions and individual scholars were thereby established in Russia. Established in our country, at the same time, were the foundations for the systematic study of this part of the world and for the development of Latin American studies as an independent branch of science.

Soviet science continued the tradition of Latin American studies after the October Revolution of 1917.

THE FIRST STEPS

Soviet Latin American studies may be said to have begun in the autumn

of 1918, when the Society for the Study of South America was initiated by a large group of distinguished Russian scholars. From the outset, the Society planned to organize a complex scientific expedition to South America. Their plans were not realized, however, due to the hostile attitude of the imperialist powers and the start of the intervention against Soviet Russia.

One may justly state that Soviet scientific research on problems of Latin America dates from the mid-1920's. Included among the works of that time which retain a distinct scientific value to our day are V. Sviatlovskii, *The Communist State of Jesuits in Paraguay in the 17th and 18th Century* (Petrograd, 1924); A. Vol'skii, *The History of Mexican Revolutions* (Moscow, 1928); I. A. Vitver, *South America* (1930) and *Countries of the Caribbean* (1931) in the series *Universal Economic Geography*; and M. Kogan, *Economic Crisis in Latin America* (Moscow, 1930).

In the early 1930's, a department for the study of the Caribbean and South America was established in the Colonial Section of the Institute of World Economy and World Politics in Moscow. In the pre-war period it became the center of Latin-American studies in the USSR. Related to the activities of this department were the more serious studies of the problems of Latin America, and the broadening themes of research. Appearing at this time were the works of G. Iakobson, *Aspects of the Indian and Negro Problem*; [n.p.] (1933); A. Sokolov, *Pizarro*, (Moscow, 1935); and the symposium, *Problems of the Caribbean and South America* (Moscow, 1934).

A number of works of the pre-war period emanated from the pen of the talented Soviet Latin Americanist, V. M. Miroshevskii, who died in the Great Patriotic War. It was Miroshevskii who prepared the first scientific, systematic Marxist interpretation of the basic problems of Latin American history. These are published as chapters of *The Modern History of Colonial and Dependent Countries*, I (Moscow, 1940).

The foundation for Soviet Latin American studies, as a separate science, was doubtless established before the war. At that time a cadre of scholars began an overall Marxist evaluation of the problems of Latin America.

WHY WE STUDY LATIN AMERICA

The continuation of this study was somewhat interrupted during the course of the war with Hitler's Germany. Thereafter, greater opportunities for the development of Soviet Latin American studies presented themselves. The extension of economic and cultural ties and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the USSR and most of the countries of Latin America in the years 1942–1946 contributed greatly to the continuation of these studies.

Interest in the life of the peoples of Latin America has grown in our country. It became apparent there was a need to be informed and to encom-

pass the increasing flow of information received by the Soviet people from this part of the world which was no longer distant in our times; and to begin a systematic, more serious study of the processes taking place in the countries of Latin America.

To achieve this Soviet researchers followed two main paths. By the first, there is popularization and dissemination of knowledge about Latin America to the broad masses about the life and customs of its peoples, their achievements, and so forth. With this goal in mind, a large number of books and pamphlets are printed in editions of tens of thousands of copies. To illustrate this, one might point to the series, "Latin America Today," which includes *Mexico* by R. Touchnin, "*Panama for Panamanians*" by S. Gonionskii, *Uruguay Today* by K. Khachaturov, and *The Struggles and Daily Life of Brazil* by A. Aglin. More than a few of these brochures popularizing Latin America are issued by the publishing house, "Znanie." They include *Bolivia: Revolution and Counter-revolution* by Iu. Fadeev, *The Soviet Union and the Countries of Latin America* by A. Sizonenko, and others.

The Latin American theme is also broadly represented in the Soviet popular scientific series, *Maps of the World*, and *Governmental Structures of Countries of the World*.

Another aspect of Soviet scholarly activities is the scientific research in depth of the fundamental problems of Latin America. Our Communist Party and our scholars are seriously concerned with comprehending and revealing the processes of the development of history, economics, and culture from the viewpoint of the Marxist methodology.

BASIC THEMES AND ORIENTATION

At the present time, the following is the main orientation of research pursued by Soviet scholars in their study of Latin America.

- a) Research in the colonial period, the liberation struggle of the peoples of Latin America against Spanish and Portuguese rule. Also, problems in the modern and contemporary history of that continent;
- b) The emergence and development of workers' and national liberation movements in Latin America;
- c) Natural and human resources, the economic development of countries of Latin America;
- d) The foreign policy and international relations of Latin American countries;
- e) The culture, science, ideology, and ethnography of Latin America;
- f) Literary criticism and literary translations.

In the elaboration of each of these themes Soviet scholars, having com-

pleted a number of major works, have achieved clear-cut results which I would like to briefly characterize.

Of the works related to the first research theme, one must include those of V. M. Miroshchinskii, *The Liberation Movement in the American Colonies of Spain from the Conquest to the Wars of Independence* (Moscow-Leningrad, 1946); I. P. Magidovich, *History of the Discovery and Exploration of Central and South America* (Moscow, 1965); M. S. Al'perovich, "The Character and Forms of Exploitation of Indians in the American Colonies of Spain during the 16th–18th Centuries" (*Novaia i noveisbaia istoriia*, 1957, No. 2); and a symposium on *Bartolomé de las Casas* (Moscow, 1966).

The Wars of Independence of the colonies of Spain and Portugal in the first quarter of the nineteenth century represent a most important event in the history of the western hemisphere. This subject has always attracted the fixed attention of Soviet researchers. The symposium, *The War of Independence in Latin America, 1810–1826* (Moscow, 1964), was published in the U.S.S.R. in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Wars of Independence. Likewise published in 1964 were the works of M. S. Al'perovich, *The War of Independence in Mexico, 1810–1824*, and L. Iu. Slezkin, *Russia and the War of Independence in Spanish America*. Along with these major studies, Soviet Latin Americanists published a number of articles broadly illuminating the national liberation struggle of the people of Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and other countries. In Soviet historical science, more and more credence is attached to the view that the liberation wars of the colonies are part of an unfinished bourgeois revolution of national character, occurring with the active participation of broad sectors of colonial society. A number of works by Soviet historians are dedicated to an evaluation of the lives, deeds, and historical roles of prominent leaders of the wars of independence, such as Simón Bolívar, Francisco Miranda, José Artigas, Miguel Hidalgo, and José Morelos.

One of the questions most extensively studied by Soviet historians is the bourgeois democratic Mexican Revolution of 1910–1917. Writing on this subject have been N. M. Lavrov, M. S. Al'perovich, B. T. Rudenko, and E. V. Ananova. Some of their works, such as the volume by Al'perovich and Rudenko, *The Mexican Revolution of 1910–1917 and the Policy of the United States* (Moscow, 1958), have been translated in Mexico into Spanish, and granted great recognition by the Mexican people.

The period of World War II is characterized by the significant rise of the worker, peasant, and national liberation movements in Latin America. These matters received the attention of Soviet science in both collective works and monographs. Included among the former are *The Present Stage of the National Liberation Movement in Latin America* (Moscow, 1961), *The Liberation Movement in Latin America* (Moscow, 1964), and *The Struggle for*

a United Workers' and Anti-Imperialistic Front in the Countries of Latin America (Moscow, 1963). Monographs worthy of note include V. I. Ermolaev, *The National Liberation and Workers' Movement in the Countries of Latin America After the Second World War* (Moscow, 1958), and M. V. Danilevich, *The Working Class in the Liberation Movement of the Peoples of Latin America* (Moscow, 1962).

Studies of the natural resources and of the economic geography of Latin America are found in E. N. Lukasheva, *South America* (Moscow, 1958), Ia. G. Mashbits, *Mexico* (Moscow, 1961), A. A. Dolinin, *Chile* (Moscow, 1952), and his *Peru* (Moscow, 1965), and others.

Economic development matters are dealt with in such works as the symposium, *Economic Problems of Latin America* (Moscow, 1963), O. G. Klesmet, *Industrialization Problems of Latin America* (Moscow, 1966), and A. M. Sivolobov, *Agrarian Relations in Contemporary Brazil* (Moscow, 1958). These and other works on the economy of Latin America examine a wide range of problems such as those related to problems of industrialization, sources of financing, problems of planning, the role of the state sector, foreign capital, economic integration, the development of agriculture, agrarian relations and the conduct of agrarian reforms.

Soviet Latin Americanists pay considerable attention to foreign policy and international relations, as in N. V. Korolev, *The Countries of Latin America in International Relations, 1898–1962* (Moscow, 1962). Various aspects of U.S. policy in Latin America from the time of the Spanish-American War to the present are examined in such works as L. S. Vladimirov, *U.S. Diplomacy During the Spanish-American War of 1898* (Moscow, 1957), L. Iu. Slezkin, *U.S. Policy in South America, 1929–1933* (Moscow, 1956), and S. A. Gonienskii, *Latin America and the U.S.A. Essays in the History of Diplomatic Relations, 1939–1959* (Moscow, 1960).

Another group of studies is concerned with problems related to the origins and character of the Monroe Doctrine, as well as other foreign policy doctrines of the U.S.A., and the meaning of present-day Panamericanism, and of modern aspects of U.S. policy related to the announced program of the Alliance for Progress in Latin America. Books in this category include: N. N. Bolkhovitinov, *The Origins and Character of the Monroe Doctrine* (Moscow, 1959); M. V. Antiasov, *Contemporary Panamericanism* (Moscow, 1960); B. I. Gvozdev, *The Organization of American States* (Moscow, 1960); and *The Meaning of "The Alliance for Progress"* (Moscow, 1964), by the same author.

Increasing attention is given in the works of Soviet scholars to the history of relations between the nations of Latin America and our country. This is evident in the works of L. A. Shur, *Russia and Latin America* (Moscow, 1964),

K. S. Tarasov, *The Soviet Union and the Countries of Latin America*, (Moscow, 1958), and A. I. Sizonenko, *The Soviet Union and Latin America*.

Study of the ancient and contemporary culture, art, and literature of the peoples of Latin America is another concern of Soviet Latin American studies. The greatest achievement in this realm is that of Iu. V. Knorozov, in deciphering the written language of the ancient Mayas. The results of his research efforts, which have received international recognition, may be found in his major work, *The Writings of the Ancient Maya Indians* (Moscow-Leningrad, 1963). The importance to world culture of the indigenous population of America is studied in the collective work, *The Culture of the Indians* (Moscow, 1963), and in the monograph of R. V. Kinzhalov, *The Art of Ancient America* (Moscow, 1962). The rich and unique art of Mexico is discussed in I. A. Karetnikov, *The Art of Contemporary Mexico* (Moscow, 1960), and L. A. Zhadova, *The Monumental Painting of Mexico* (Moscow, 1965).

Among the most important works of literary criticism are the monographs of V. N. Kuteishchikova, *The Twentieth Century Novel of Latin America* (Moscow, 1964), and I. A. Terterian, *The Brazilian Novel of the Twentieth Century* (Moscow, 1965). Aside from these, there are studies of the creative efforts of the greatest writers of Latin America, such as Pablo Neruda, Jorge Amado, and Nicolás Guillén, studies of the role of J. C. Mariategui regarding the development of Peruvian national culture, works on the social motifs of Cuban poetry, and studies on the influences of Leo Tolstói's writing upon the social literary life of Latin America.

The best writings of many of Latin America's poets, scientists, novelists, and cultural exponents are translated and published in massive editions in the Soviet Union.

Studies by Soviet Latin Americanists of the major social-economic and political processes of Latin America have led us to the conclusion that the development of Latin American countries occurs within the same general framework as that which applies to the historical development of all mankind, and that the laws of social economic development discovered by Marxist Leninist science operate in Latin America with the same force as they operate in other parts of the world.

MAJOR CENTERS FOR THE STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA

The study of Latin America in the U.S.S.R. is conducted at the present time in the Academy of Sciences, in universities, and in other advanced educational institutions of our country.

Within the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, these studies are conducted in Moscow at the Institute of History, Institute of Ethnography, Institute of World

Latin American Research Review

Economics and International Relations, the Institute of World Literature, the Institute of Philosophy, and finally the Latin American Institute, which same I have the honor to represent here.

The Institute of History has within it a department of Latin American history, with a group of scholars who do research in that field. Among them are M. S. Al'perovich, L. Iu. Slezkin, and N. M. Lavrov. This department has completed and published a number of collective works on the history of the major Latin American states: *Essays in the Modern and Contemporary History of Latin America* (Moscow, 1960), *Essays in the History of Argentina* (Moscow, 1961), *Essays in the History of Brazil* (Moscow, 1962); soon to be completed is a similar work on Chile. The department has plans to prepare such books on most of the countries of Latin America. These works are the first in Marxist historiography to present a scientific periodization and a systematic presentation of the most important historical events based on a careful analysis of the peculiar development of the separate states and consideration of the general laws of the universal historical process.

The American department of the Institute of Ethnography has a group of scholars studying the ethnic structure, customs and culture of the contemporary population of Latin America, the development of Indian civilization prior to the European conquest, the characteristics of Spanish and Portuguese colonization, and the process of the formation of Latin American nations. Among these scientific researchers are: Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Science, A. V. Efimov, S. A. Gonionskii, I. R. Grigulevich, and E. L. Nitoburg, who have written the major works, *Peoples of America* (Moscow, 1959), *Indians of America* (Moscow, 1955), *Nations of Latin America* (Moscow, 1964), and *Cuba: Historical-Ethnographic Essays* (Moscow, 1961).

Another group of Latin American ethnographers, including Iu. V. Knorozov and R. V. Kinzhalov, work in the Leningrad division of the Institute of Ethnography.

In the Institute of World Economics and International Relations is a group of Latin America researchers among whom the best known are M. V. Danilevich, O. G. Klesmet, and K. S. Tarasov. M. V. Danilevich, the author of two monographs on the working class of Latin America, is also editor of *Problems of Contemporary Latin America* (Moscow, 1959).

V. N. Kuteishchikova, I. A. Terterian, and others pursue problems of Latin American literature in the Gorky Institute of World Literature.

THE LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Permit me now to refer to the activities of the Latin American Institute. The Institute was founded by decree of the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Acad-

emy of Sciences in 1961. Before discussing the activities of the Institute, I would like to digress historically to observe that the study of foreign lands, and study of the life and culture of distant peoples has been traditional in Russia. May it suffice to merely refer to such internationally known Russian scholars as the ethnographer M. Miklukho-Maklai, who devoted his entire life to the study of Polynesian aborigines, the geographer and explorer of Asia, N. M. Przheval'skii, and others, in order to point out the broad interests which have long been pursued by leading representatives of Russian science and culture. The research of separate scholars indicated that in time there might be a better concentration of effort, and this led to the creation in our country of regional institutes as centers for the complex study of various parts of the world. The first of these centers was established in the mid-nineteenth century, as the Lazarevskii Institute of Oriental Languages, later renamed the Institute of Oriental Studies, and in more recent times incorporated into the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences Institute of the Peoples of Asia. There existed in the U.S.S.R., before the war, the Pacific Ocean Institute. The U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences African Institute was established in Moscow in 1958, and finally, as I have stated, the Latin American Institute, established in 1961.

The establishment of the latter was the logical consequence of the development of Soviet Latin American studies, increasing interest of the Soviet peoples in the life of the peoples of Latin America, and expanding ties between the U.S.S.R. and that region of the world. Our Institute was destined to become the scientific research and coordinating center for the complex study of the problems of contemporary Latin America. Permit me to present a more detailed account of the activities and the organization of the Institute. It comprises seven departments: Economics, Foreign Policy and International Relations, Workers' and National Liberation Movements, Agrarian Problems, Cuba, History, Culture, and Geography.

A large number of leading Soviet Latin Americanists are concentrated in the Institute. Among them are the economists I. K. Sheremet'ev and Z. I. Romanova, the international historians A. N. Glinkin and B. I. Gvozdarev, specialists of the history of the labor movement, V. I. Ermolaev, A. F. Shul'govskii, B. I. Koval', and S. I. Semenov, and specialist of the agrarian problems Iu. G. Onufriev. At present there are about 100 scientific workers in the Institute. In the course of the past five years, the Institute published a series of collective works, monographs of individual authors, brochures, articles in various Russian and foreign scholarly journals, reviews, notes, and so forth. Among them might be noted such collective works as *The Liberation Movement in Latin America* (Moscow, 1964), Jose Carlos Mariategui: *In Honor of the Seventieth Anniversary of His Birth* (Moscow, 1966), *Political Parties of the Countries of Latin America* (Moscow, 1965), the handbook *Economics of Latin Amer-*

Latin American Research Review

ica in Figures (Moscow, 1965), as well as the monographs of B. I. Gvozdev, *Evolution and Crisis of the Inter-American System* (Moscow, 1966), A. N. Glinkin, *A Contemporary History of Brazil, 1939–1959* (Moscow, 1961), Iu. M. Grigorian, *The Economic Expansion of the Federal Republic of Germany in Latin America* (Moscow, 1965), B. M. Merin, *Free Cuba* (Moscow, 1964), M. S. Nikitin, *Chile* (Moscow, 1965), Z. I. Romanova, *Problems of Economic Integration in Latin America* (Moscow, 1965), G. K. Seleznev (in English), *International Trade: The Path to Peace and Progress* (Moscow, 1966), and I. K. Sheremet'ev, *State Capitalism in Mexico* (Moscow, 1963).

Fulfilling its role as coordinating center, the Institute, jointly with other scientific institutions, participated in the preparation and publication of the symposia, *Brazilia* (Moscow, 1963), *Five Years of Cuban Revolution* (Moscow, 1963), and *Chile* (Moscow, 1965). Foreign scholars were enlisted to participate in the writing of these works. In preparation at the present time are similar publications on Venezuela and Mexico.

The Latin American Institute likewise organizes scientific conferences in cooperation with specialists of other research institutions of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. Conferences which have been held in the Institute include, "The New Stage of the National Liberation and Workers' Movement in Latin America" (1962), "Latin America in Contemporary International Relations" (1965), and "The Agrarian Question and Problems of the National Liberation Movement in Latin America."

Our Institute maintains ties with various scientific centers, institutions, and universities of Latin America, the United States, and Europe. Ties are manifested by exchanges of scientific literature, joint preparation of publications, and mutual exchanges of scholars. In 1966 the Latin American Institute maintained contacts with scientific centers of more than twenty-five countries. We propose to strengthen and expand these ties. My present visit to the United States is evidence of our intentions.

Plans of the Institute for the near future include the publication of a three-volume encyclopedic handbook on Latin America, major collective works on the themes of "The Path of Friendship and Commercial Collaboration" (the U.S.S.R. and Latin America, 1917–1967), "The Countries of Latin America in Contemporary International Relations," "Problems of Ideology and Culture in the Countries of Latin America," "The Proletariat of Latin America," "The Peasantry of Latin America," "Tendencies in the Economic Development of Latin American Countries," and "Problems of Industrial Development in Latin American Countries." Likewise, in preparation for publication are the monographs of A. F. Shul'govskii, *Mexico at A Sharp Turning Point in Its History*, B. I. Koval', *The Working Class of Brazil*, A. S. Koval'skaia,

The Colonies in Latin America in the Struggle for Independence, B. N. Brodovich, *The National Income of Latin American Countries*, and others.

THE PREPARATION OF SPECIALISTS

As I have already noted, the study of problems of Latin America is also being conducted in the universities and other scholarly institutions of the U.S.S.R., located in the cities of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Voronezh, Alma-Ata, Frunze, Dushanbe, Chernovtsy, and Kalinin. The scholarly publications of these institutions regularly include a large number of articles, notes, and other works on the Latin American theme.

Yet, the main purpose of these institutions is not to do research but to prepare cadres of specialists. For example, in the universities of Moscow and Leningrad, Latin Americanists are being prepared in history, geography, economics, and philology. And incorporated into the course work of many disciplines are aspects pertaining to the study of Latin America.

In addition, small numbers of students specialize in advanced courses studying Latin America in greater depth, that is, studying physical and economic geography, economics, history, international relations and foreign policy, literature, and art. Students in the above groups study Spanish and Portuguese. They prepare two modest scientific papers in the course of two years, and in the final course of university study they prepare a more thorough graduation thesis which they defend before an authoritative committee of specialists.

Specialists of more advanced qualifications, namely, Candidates of Sciences, pursue post-graduate preparation in the appropriate faculties of the universities, the Latin American Institute, or in other institutes of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences.