Latin America and the First World War

Using a broad variety of textual and visual sources, \textit{Latin America and the First World War} goes beyond traditional diplomatic history and analyzes the global dimension of the history of the Great War. Filling a significant gap in transnational histories of the war, Stefan Rinke addresses political, social, and economic aspects as well as the cultural impact of the war on Latin America and vice versa. Rinke's meticulous research is based on sources from the nineteen independent states of the entire subcontinent and promises to be the most comprehensive examination to date of Latin America before, during, and immediately after the war.

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Latin America and the First World War

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Contents

List of Figures  page viii
Preface         ix
List of Abbreviations   xi
   Introduction  1
1 The Global Context before 1914  14
2 Neutrality under Pressure, 1914–1917  38
3 In the Wake of War, 1917  108
4 Turbulent Paths into a “New Era,” 1918–1919  161
5 The Demise of a World  195
6 Nation and Trans-nation  226
   Epilogue: The Global Legacy of the World War  256
Sources and Literature  263
Chronology  293
Index  297
Figures

2.1 The god of war sows violence around the world  page 39
2.2 A feeling of crisis in Buenos Aires  67
2.3 Lady Fortuna favored the wartime profiteers, the United States, and Argentina  69
2.4 The plight of the workers  73
2.5 The Allies’ economic war  75
2.6 The significance of the propaganda war  83
3.1 Commerce is bankrupt  113
3.2 The glorious United States  121
3.3 An appeal for South American solidarity  149
4.1 Democracy against autocracy  166
4.2 Blaming the Kaiser  188
5.1 The carnival parade in Europe  199
5.2 An “exotic” war  202
5.3 The war in product advertisements  204
5.4 The inhumanity of the war  206
5.5 The world on the brink  214
5.6 The endless war  216
5.7 Barbaric Europe  218
5.8 The bloody map of Europe  221
5.9 Europe’s death, the Americas’ life  224
6.1 Overcoming the crisis  231
6.2 The alarming rise of the United States  243
6.3 The rapid growth of the “boys” from ABC took President Wilson by surprise  252
Preface

This book has been long in the making, and its history reflects the historiographical developments of the past two decades. When in the early 1990s I wrote my doctoral thesis on Weimar Germany and Latin America, transnational history was still a very new approach. In the meantime, the transnational perspective has arrived at the mainstream of the profession. I have profited from the rising production along the years, and my concept for a book on Latin America during the First World War that originated back then has changed quite radically. The result of this process is this book, which has benefited from discussions with many colleagues and students around the world.

The concept of global consciousness plays an important part in this study. In using it, I follow an approach developed in our Berlin research group “Actors of Cultural Globalization.” A further stimulating context was Freie Universität’s project 1914–1918-online: The International Encyclopedia of the First World War. In order to finish this book, I was honored with a research fellowship by the Einstein Foundation. Both the Foundation and the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin that hosted me deserve gratitude for their generosity.

My thanks also go to those who have directly supported me in finishing this book, especially my former research assistant and now PhD student Karina Kriegesmann. I appreciate the advice of my teacher and friend Hans-Joachim König, who years ago prevented me from writing a chapter on the war into what had become a much-too-long doctoral dissertation. I am also very grateful to the many people in the libraries and archives in Latin America and elsewhere who helped me, and to my family, who missed me when I was there and supported me when I was back.
Abbreviations

AA  Auswärtiges Amt
AFL American Federation of Labor
AHI Arquivo Histórico do Itamaraty
AMRREE Archivo del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
B. A. Buenos Aires
BD British Documents on Foreign Affairs
CROM Confederación Regional Obrera Mexicana
FRUS Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States
MRE Ministério das Relações Exteriores
MRREE Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
NA National Archives of the United States
ONI U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence
PAFL Pan-American Federation of Labor
R.d.J. Rio de Janeiro
RG Record Group