

Latin America and the First World War

Using a broad variety of textual and visual sources, *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.

Stefan Rinke is Professor of Latin American History at the Institute of Latin American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and a former Einstein Research Fellow. He is speaker of the German-Mexican Graduate School "Between Spaces" – a cooperative doctoral program with leading Mexican universities. He is the author of twelve books, many of which have been translated into Spanish and Portuguese. Rinke is a member of the board of the journals *Geschichte und Gesellschaft* and *Iberoamericana*, and co-editor of the *Enzyklopädie der Neuzeit*.

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The Attitude of Latin American States toward the War

Latin America and the First World War

STEFAN RINKE

Freie Universität Berlin

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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	<i>Auswärtiges Amt</i>
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