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F. A. Kirkpatrick

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LATIN AMERICA

A Brief History

BY

F. A. KIRKPATRICK, M.A.

EMERITUS READER IN SPANISH IN
THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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PREFACE

To tell in one short volume the history of two empires for three centuries, and of twenty states for a century and a quarter, is not easy. The first typescript of this volume far exceeded possible limits. Much has been reluctantly scrapped, and much condensed. Thus, only a few pages have been allotted, in Chapter IV, to a large subject, the Spanish Empire in America: that subject has been more fully treated by the present writer in *The Cambridge Modern History*, vol. x, chapter 8.

Some dislike the now familiar term 'Latin America', as not accurately descriptive. This objection seems to confuse a name—a convenient and generally accepted label—with a descriptive definition. The terms Amazonas, Costa Rica, Venezuela ('little Venice'), Río de la Plata, Rio de Janeiro (which is river-less), were originally attempts—unsatisfactory attempts—at description. They remain as convenient names, their signification forgotten. On the other hand confusion has arisen from treating the political term 'Central America' as a geographical description. Political designations, ethnologically or geographically inexact, abound elsewhere; nor have some post-war emendations always proved entirely happy in everyday use. The alternative term 'Hispanic America' is unwelcome—perhaps mistakenly—to Brazilians; nor, if regarded as a descriptive definition, does it include Haiti. 'Eurindia', proposed by some, does not commend itself. Historians native to those lands, when they are writing for Europeans, commonly use the term Latin America. Among themselves Latin-Americans use no epithet: they call themselves *americanos* and their common land America (*América* in Spanish), a word which, to the Peninsula and its daughter lands, denotes what we call Latin America. When occasion makes distinction necessary, they say *Nuestra América*, 'Our America'. In this volume it is impossible to avoid using the word 'American' in a national sense, varied by the unsatisfactory substitutes 'Yankee' or 'North American' in case of ambiguity or awkwardness.

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Some lesser verbal questions occur. The Spanish *andino* seems better rendered by 'Andine', used by the Trans-Andine Railway (cf. 'Alpine'), than by 'Andean'. It is perhaps reasonable to write 'Chile'; just as one may prefer 'Zaragoza' to 'Saragossa' or 'Andalucía' to 'Andalusia': but the adjective 'Chilean' is neither English nor Spanish and does not represent *chileno*. One might equally well write 'Brasilean, Panamean, Quitean' for *Brasileño, Panameño, Quiteño*. The British Museum Catalogue keeps the anglicized forms 'Chili, Chilian'. Sometimes choice must be arbitrary: of the several forms used for *La Habana* by English writers, 'Havana' seems the best.

In personal names the Spanish accentuation has been observed, except in titles of books whose authors omit accents. In geographical names it is often a question. To write México or Perú (properly *el Perú*) would be pedantry. Panamá is a doubtful case. Less common names, such as Córdoba, Cumaná, Tucumán, Yucatán, seem to demand the correct accentuation.

The frequent citations from American historians, to whom this volume owes much, do not imply hesitancy of opinion but discretion in dealing with delicate matters. In these pages there is not the least intention to examine, still less to criticize, the policy or policies of the United States. But the impact of that policy on Latin America and on Latin-American opinion is an essential and unavoidable part of this history.

The estimates of area and population given in the several chapters are taken, with one exception, from the Statesman's Year-book for 1937.

Reviewers, and perhaps some readers, desire lists of books. The word 'bibliography' would be here out of place: a recent 'Tentative Bibliography of the Economic Literature of Latin America', published at Harvard, contains above 12,000 titles. A published bibliography of the Mexican Revolution, 1810-35, contains nearly as many. A volume might be filled by a bibliography of Columbus or of Argentina or of the Monroe Doctrine. Thus it seems best to name only a few useful books and (with rare exceptions) only books printed in English. A list is given here of some works dealing generally with the whole subject. Others concerning the

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several parts are named at the end of most of the chapters. Asterisks mark the volumes which contain bibliographies. The reader may thus find his way to ample literature on any branch of this history.

GENERAL WORKS: T. C. Dawson, *The South American Republics* (2 vols. New York, 1904); C. E. Akers, *A History of South America, 1854-1904* (London, 1904); H. G. James and P. A. Martin, *The Republics of Latin America** (New York, 1923); A. C. Wilgus, *A History of Hispanic America** (Washington, 1931); W. S. Robertson, *History of the Latin-American Nations** (2nd. edition, enlarged, New York, 1932); T. F. Rippey, *Historical Evolution of Hispanic America** (New York, 1933); F. García Calderón, *Latin America, its rise and progress* (English Translation, London, 1913); C. H. Haring, *South American Progress* (Harvard, 1934); J. Ll. Mecham, *Church and State in Latin America** (Chapel Hill, 1934); A. Coester, *Literary History of Spanish America** (New York, 1916); H. C. Lea, *The Inquisition in the Spanish Dependencies** (New York, 1908); Three works edited by A. C. Wilgus (Washington, 1933, 1934, 1935), i. *Modern Hispanic America*; ii. *The Caribbean Area* (deals with recent conditions in twelve republics); iii. *Argentina, Brazil and Chile since independence*. The quarterly *Hispanic-American Historical Review* (Duke University Press), besides historical articles, gives ample bibliographies and reviews of books. The annual *Handbook of Latin-American Studies* (Harvard) gives recent publications. For those who read Spanish two bibliographies may be named: H. Keniston, *List of Works for the Study of Hispanic-American History* (Hispanic Society of America, New York, 1920); W. W. Pierson, *Hispanic-American History: a Syllabus* (Chapel Hill, 1926).

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has good articles, written by historians, on the several republics. *The South American Handbook*, annually published in London, gives much statistical and other information. Descriptive and general matter is found in W. H. Koebel's books on Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Central America; in C. R. Enock's books on Ecuador, Peru, Mexico and Spanish America and in P. F. Martin's volumes on Mexico, Peru and Salvador. Among innumerable travel books may be mentioned Darwin's *Voyage of the 'Beagle'*, Waterton's *Wanderings in South America* and Tschiffely's *Ride*—all obtainable in several editions: also the travel books of three Americans, 'H. J. Mozans' (J. A. Zahm), H. Bingham and I. Bowman.

F. A. KIRKPATRICK

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