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importance to work — and work harder — than Latin Americans.” (p. 36) Since it is not explained, Harrison’s odd conviction that “US intellectuals are a major force against constructive cultural change in Latin America,” (p. 37) is puzzling, to say the least.

Hidden in the table of contents are articles of value. Margaret Crahan’s review of religion and politics in Latin America is an admirable synthesis, as is William LeoGrande’s article on human rights. LeoGrande argues for a permanent human rights component in United States security policy. Ambler Moss’ look at the future of United States-Panamanian relations to the year 2000 covers the key issues in the relationship and has value even though it was written before the invasion of Panama in 1989. William Perry’s article on Brazil’s strategic potential is an even-handed review of past Brazilian military and foreign policy and of possible future directions. Norman Bailey’s analysis of the “Security Implications of the Global Debt Crisis for Latin America,” is still valid.

Inevitably, a book based on presentations at a symposium and aimed at contemporary policy loses value with the passage of time. Dramatic changes since 1989 in Latin America (Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Nicaragua, and Panama, to name a few of the most obvious) and in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have drastically altered perceptions of security in the Western Hemisphere. It is time for a new assessment.

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Lemco, Jonathan. *Canada and the Crisis in Central America*. New York: Praeger, 1991.

Canada’s interest in the Third World has traditionally been focused on the Commonwealth and la Francophonie. Although Canadian investors ranged more widely, Canadian governments concentrated on countries with whom we shared at least a linguistic bond. This meant that much of the Middle East and Western Asia, and parts of Southeast Asia were neglected. It also resulted in Canada assuming a very low profile in Latin America: Ottawa was not an important hemispheric actor.

The crisis that erupted in Central America in 1979 changed all that. Canadians suddenly expected their government to become an active player in an area where it had little prior experience. Moreover, they asked Ottawa to take strong positions opposing the policy of the United States. Jonathan Lemco explains how the Trudeau and Mulroney governments dealt with the pressure and elaborated a Central American policy.

We should think of this book as having two distinct but related parts. One of these provides a useful summary of the Central American peace process. Indeed, I expect scholars will judge Lemco's chapter on the Contadora and Esquipulas peace processes to be a particularly sound overview. While Central America specialists may disagree with some of the author's interpretations of domestic politics in particular countries, all will find his overview of regional dynamics balanced and accurate.

The heart of the book is its description and analysis of Ottawa's policy toward the region. Washington has always shown a special interest in Latin America. This, when combined with Canada's reluctance to "take an action that might hinder its vital interests with the United States, notwithstanding the absence of a history of policy linkage" (p. 169), could have produced inaction. Lemco, however, argues that the "perception that Canada could make a legitimate difference in Central America" (p. 167) produced policies that engaged Canada more fully in the region than ever before and saw Ottawa take an independent line from Washington over Nicaragua. The author correctly notes the impact of NGOs concerned about development and human rights and the media in creating the conditions that led to this unprecedented presence. Ottawa had to balance these against the traditional economic concerns of Canadian business and its bilateral relations with the United States in its search for an effective Central American policy.

Latin Americanists will profit from Lemco's description of Canada's foreign policy preoccupations and process. Foreign policy specialists should find the book a handy introduction to an unfamiliar area. Concise and clearly written, *Canada and the Crisis in Central America* has real potential as a text in courses on Canadian foreign policy or inter-American relations.

Finally, though it is not the author's principal aim, those reading the book will surely ask themselves what will happen now that Central America is no longer an international hot spot. Ottawa's traditional reading of realpolitik would dictate that Canada again consign the region to a back burner and turn its energies to Eastern Europe and the Pacific Rim, if indeed we do not return to our historical near-total preoccupation with the US and Western Europe. Now, however, the prospect of free trade with Mexico, even of hemispheric free trade, suggests that we should not forfeit our hard won expertise in the area. If Canada opts to give more weight to inter-American affairs the experience gained in dealing with the Central American crisis of the 1980s will serve it well.

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