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AND THE WORLD ECONOMY
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1930*

Prepared for

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BILL ALBERT

Lecturer in Economic and Social History

University of East Anglia

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Contents

<i>List of Tables and Maps</i>	6
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	7
<i>Note on References</i>	7
<i>Editor's Preface</i>	9
<i>Introduction</i>	15
1 Approaches to the Study of Latin American Economic History in the Post-Colonial Period	17
2 Latin America and the World Economy from Independence to 1930: An Overview	24
3 Brazil	42
4 Argentina	56
5 Peru	69
6 Chile	76
7 Conclusion	83
<i>Notes</i>	86
<i>Select Bibliography</i>	87
<i>Index</i>	94

List of Tables and Maps

TABLES

I	British Investment (accumulated) in Latin American Governments and Railways 1865 and 1875	29
II	Annual Rate of Growth of Exports 1883–1913	30
III	Commodity Composition of Exports	32
IV	Foreign Investment (accumulated) in Latin America 1913 and 1929	34
V	Indicators of Social and Economic Change 1870–1930	38
VI	Indicators of External Dependence 1870–1929	39

Brazil

VII	Coffee Exports 1820–1930	45
VIII	Accumulated Foreign Investment in Brazil 1865–1927 and Share of Government Loans	47
IX	Unrepaid Debt of Brazilian Government 1855–1927	47
X	Railway Development in Brazil 1854–1930	49
XI	Immigration into Brazil 1858–1940	51

Argentina

XII	Some Indicators of Argentinian Growth 1865–1929	60
XIII	Argentine Exports: Quantity and Percentage of Total Export Value 1880–1929	61
XIV	Argentine Railways and Control 1884–1929	66
XV	Net Immigration into Argentina 1857–1930	66

Peru

XVI	Composition of Peruvian Exports by Value (percentage share) 1895–1930	75
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Chile

XVII	Chilean Exports 1844–77	77
XVIII	Chilean Exports 1884–1929	80

MAPS

Brazil	10
Argentina	11
Peru	12
Chile	13

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Note on References

References in the text within square brackets relate to the items in the Bibliography, followed, where necessary, by the page numbers in italics, for example [Platt, 1980, 127]. Other references in the text, numbered consecutively throughout the book, relate to annotations of the text or to sources not given in the Bibliography, and are itemised in the Notes and References section.

Editor's Preface

SINCE 1968, when the Economic History Society and Macmillan published the first of the 'Studies in Economic and Social History', the series has established itself as a major teaching tool in universities, colleges and schools, and as a familiar landmark in serious bookshops throughout the country. A great deal of the credit for this must go to the wise leadership of its first editor, Professor M. W. Flinn, who retired at the end of 1977. The books tend to be bigger now than they were originally, and inevitably more expensive; but they have continued to provide information in modest compass at a reasonable price by the standards of modern academic publications.

There is no intention of departing from the principles of the first decade. Each book aims to survey findings and discussion in an important field of economic or social history that has been the subject of recent lively debate. It is meant as an introduction for readers who are not themselves professional researchers but who want to know what the discussion is all about — students, teachers and others generally interested in the subject. The authors, rather than either taking a strongly partisan line or suppressing their own critical faculties, set out the arguments and the problems as fairly as they can, and attempt a critical summary and explanation of them from their own judgement. The discipline now embraces so wide a field in the study of the human past that it would be inappropriate for each book to follow an identical plan, but all volumes will normally contain an extensive descriptive bibliography.

The series is not meant to provide all the answers but to help readers to see the problems clearly enough to form their own conclusions. We shall never agree in history, but the discipline will be well served if we know what we are disagreeing about, and why.

T. C. SMOUT

University of St Andrews

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