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The Making of the Twentieth Century

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Latin America: Internal Conflict and International Peace

Peter Calvert

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The cover picture shows a scene from the Mexican Revolution: Villa at the head of his army, 1916

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Abbreviations

AD	Acción Democrática, Venezuela
APRA	Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana, Peru
<i>A.P.S.R.</i>	<i>American Political Science Review</i>
CACM	Central American Common Market
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency, U.S.
ECLA	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America
GOU	Grupo de Oficiales Unidos, Argentina
<i>H.A.H.R.</i>	<i>Hispanic American Historical Review</i>
<i>J.I.A.S.</i>	<i>Journal of Inter-American Studies</i>
LAFTA	Latin American Free Trade Area
MNR	Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario, Bolivia
OAS	Organisation of American States
<i>P.H.R.</i>	<i>Pacific Historical Review</i>
UNEF	United Nations Emergency Force at Suez
UNFICYP	United Nations Force in Cyprus

Preface

THE aim of this book is an unpretentious one: to present a succinct outline of the political and diplomatic history of Latin America in this century. It presents it with a continuous theme: the fact that the preoccupation of Latin American politicians with the politics of violent internal conflict – something of importance in itself in a world increasingly conscious of revolutions or *coups d'état* – has been attended by notable efforts to achieve that stable framework of international relations which could make their skills obsolete. I should like to hope that it could inspire others more favoured by nature and history to take note, and to do better than they do.

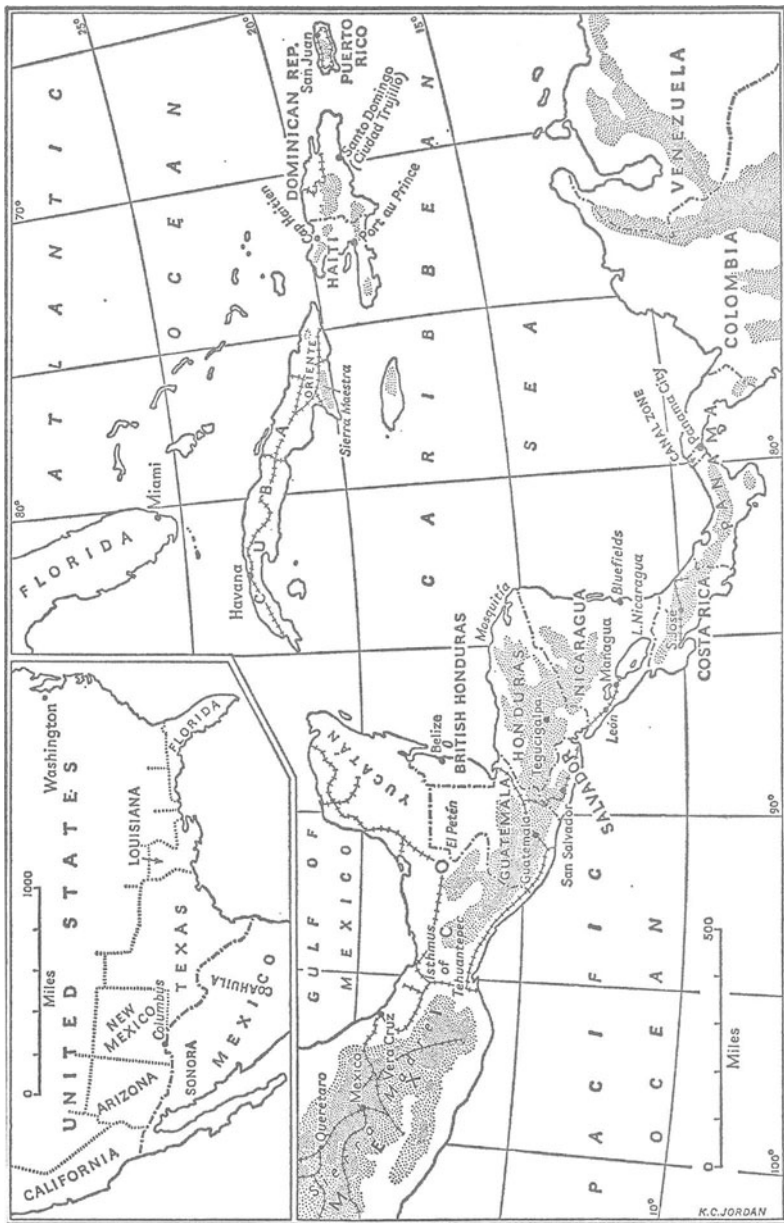
One word of warning seems necessary. Since much of the tension in recent Latin American diplomacy has arisen from the interaction of the Caribbean system and the continental system of South America, this in turn means that in describing it the development of United States involvement in the area must be taken into account. This though, is not a diplomatic history of the United States nor a history of United States – Latin American relations as such.

For this reason, as it would have been inappropriate to give too much prominence to any one country, I have chosen to present the material needed to understand each, by chronological treatment within defined areas. I believe this is not only convenient for reference purposes, but necessary if the analytical concepts that underly the treatment are to be of any real use to the reader.

The sources for such an outline are many and various. No one can hope personally to be a student of more than a small

part of two continents' history in any given time span. I am much indebted to the research of many experts whose works I have given credit in the references and in the bibliography. They are much broader and much deeper than I can indicate here, given the space available, and the reader is urged to consult those that interest him for himself. If he does, he will find that I have not necessarily agreed in all cases with their interpretations of the facts or have phrased them differently, and throughout any errors of fact or interpretation are my own.

It is pleasant to have the opportunity to thank Professor Alexander DeConde, from whom I first learnt about the diplomatic history of the United States. In dealing with its crucial role in modern Latin America I have tried to appraise it fairly. I should also like to thank Professor David Joslin, who encouraged me to write this book; Christopher Platt, Christopher Thorne and Michael Shaw, who read it in manuscript and made helpful and constructive comments; my colleagues at the University of Southampton, who have at different times discussed with me theoretical approaches to politics; and Miss Gillian Boyle, who volunteered to help out with the typing of the manuscript at a critical time. I am grateful too, to my wife for her encouragement, and to my son for his forbearance.



The Caribbean