

Bauer does not make the most out of his material, however. Not only does he fail to consider Taylor as a representative of south-western planters or slaveholding presidents or generals turned president, but he also fails to raise a number of other questions that need answering. After pointing out that Taylor was both a Jeffersonian and a land speculator, Bauer does not try to determine which aspect had priority. Did Taylor retain his old republican ideals (as Robert Remini claims for Andrew Jackson) or did he succumb to the lure of liberal capitalism as so many did during the era? Bauer does say that Taylor was a good slave owner who treated his slaves well, but he does not ask how it was possible for a large slaveholder (Taylor owned 131 slaves) to support a version of popular sovereignty as Taylor did in 1849 and 1850. And although Bauer does point out that Taylor was the first president whose party controlled neither branch of Congress, he does not do justice to Taylor's difficult role in the 1850 crisis. This is a valuable book, but there is room for still another on Zachary Taylor.

Donald B. Cole
Phillips Exeter Academy

The United States and Mexico. By Josefina Zoraida Vázquez and Lorenzo Meyer (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985. xiii + 220 pp. \$29.00.)

This succinct and accessible volume aptly obtains the goals stated for it. As part of a series dedicated to the exploration of perspectives on foreign affairs from "outside the United States," this translated work by two premier scholars at El Colegio de México sets forth the main themes in the bilateral relationship from a Mexican point of view. Though neither tendentious nor doctrinaire, the book nevertheless illustrates a deep Mexican sense of grievance and victimhood.

In the unfolding narrative, Josefina Zoraida Vázquez describes the legacies of the nineteenth century, and Lorenzo Meyer, those of the twentieth, emphasizing as principal characteristics the degrees of inequality, dependence, and asymmetry. For Mexicans, the United States, "the single most important

factor" in the conduct of relations with the outside world, possesses overweening influence over trade, investment, tourism, technology, and emigration, but the inhabitants of that northern neighbor country seldom demonstrate sufficient corollary regard. Indeed, North Americans have given offense typically by showing little consciousness of the effects of their power and the extent to which historical experience has conditioned Mexican attitudes against them.

The primary preoccupations in this book center on the course of territorial expansion, the control of natural resources, and the consequences of burgeoning Mexican nationalism. Although Mexicans lacked the means in the nineteenth century to resist United States annexations at their expense, they could never forget the ignominy of their losses. Indeed, Vázquez and Meyer underscore an often neglected point among North Americans that "the conquest of half of Mexico's territory in 1848 determined the feelings of resentment and mistrust that have prevailed since that time." Later, when the focus of United States interest shifted to the acquisition of Mexico's mineral wealth, President Porfirio Díaz facilitated favorable treatment and initiated the processes of modernization that culminated in the onset of the great revolution in 1910. That bloody conflict forged the Mexican nation and established the dilemmas prevailing in foreign policy ever since. Though Mexicans have sought to reduce the extent of foreign control over their destinies, they also have suffered the debilitating effects of vulnerability. For example, in the controversy over Article 27 of the Constitution of 1917, the Mexican advocacy of nationalization and expropriation menaced British and United States petroleum interests and also placed in jeopardy the availability of outside sources of investment capital. The twists and turns of Mexican foreign policy during the past half-century reflected the ever-present competition between the need to undertake independent initiatives and the need to recognize the reality of external constraints. This work tells the story emphatically but without vitriol and surely will interest the intended audience of students and lay readers.

Mark T. Gilderhus
Colorado State University