

ment is that civilian leaders repeatedly used the military to enforce the central government's political objectives—thereby casting them as “soldier saviors”—to the point that the post–World War I generation of officers became fed up with what they regarded as misuse of their talents. The professionalization of the officer corps beginning in the early 1910s stimulated their disenchantment with their political role but led to more, rather than less, involvement in politics.

Keith devotes two chapters to the nineteenth century in which he develops the view of the military as “soldier saviors” who repeatedly acted to save the empire. He then applies the “soldier savior” interpretation of military behavior to the 1889–1914 period, in which he portrays the military as purifiers of the system. He ends with a chapter on the tenente movement, which he labels a new and more profound form of the soldier as savior. He notes that the tenentes were not truly revolutionary; they did not want to end the republican regime but to purify and perfect it.

The book is a good summary of the secondary literature available in the mid-1960s; but that is also a weakness, because by not updating the text, Keith did not take advantage of more recent work, such as that of José Murilo de Carvalho, Edmundo Campos Coelho, and José Drummond. The type of mentality Keith describes could apply to officers in the Castello Branco faction of the early 1960s, but his model does not provide a basis for understanding from whence came the more extreme authoritarians at the end of that decade.

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*Su majestad británica contra la Revolución Mexicana, 1900–1950: el fin de un imperio informal.* By LORENZO MEYER. Mexico City: El Colegio de México, 1991. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. 579 pp. Paper.

Lorenzo Meyer's most recent book is an important contribution to the study of the external dimension of the Mexican Revolution. It should not be surprising that within that genre, Meyer's work appears ten years after Friedrich Katz's *Secret War in Mexico: Europe, the United States, and the Mexican Revolution* (1981), for that is what it takes to write historical studies that require multiple-archive research and an encapsulation of the history of separate nations into a logical and engaging narrative.

Meyer reviews Anglo-Mexican relations from the nineteenth century, when Mexico was of secondary economic interest to Britain in Latin America and therefore marginal to its foreign policy, to March of 1938, when Mexico became front-page news in the *Times* after President Lázaro Cárdenas expropriated that venerable bastion of British informal empire in Mexico, *El Aquila* Oil Company.

Meyer chronicles the political conservatism and racialist mindset that made both the Foreign Office in London and its representatives in Mexico blind to the social and political changes effected by the Revolution—occasionally even