

Some of the papers contribute to identify the trade-offs between macro-economic and environmental objectives (see especially Andy Thorpe's paper and the last section of Peter Utting's paper). To minimise these trade-offs it is not advocated – unless the environmental impact is too adverse – reversing macro-economic policies, but supplementing them with complementary initiatives which correct the negative environmental consequences associated with some micro-responses. Experiences of local initiatives in natural resource management and in institution-building for rural development are reported by a large number of papers. Most of these succeed in providing insights into the potentialities and limitations of a more participatory approach to sustainable agriculture. The main conclusions emerging from these papers suggest that there is a long way before effective coordination between the public and local initiatives may permit the process of resource depletion in Central America to be controlled.

The value of the book, however, would have been enhanced if it had addressed two additional themes: the Costa Rican experience in 'ecocapitalism' and the potential for regional cooperation in the sustainability field. The 'ecocapitalism' in Costa Rica, with sectors of the business community becoming actively involved in the production and trade of environmental goods and services, is having important effects on both the local resource users and the national economy. On the other hand, the regional cooperation to protect and recover the environment is particularly relevant to Central America as this is a region consisting of small countries with similar ecological characteristics and borders with shared natural resources.

The book is useful reading for all those interested in public policies and local initiatives which may support a strategy of sustainable agriculture and rural development in Honduras and Nicaragua. The coverage of these issues in the rest of the Central American countries is much more limited.

University of Burgos

FERNANDO RUEDA-JUNQUERA

Mario Lungo Uclés, *El Salvador in the Eighties: Counterinsurgency and Revolution* (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 1996), pp. vi+240, \$54.95, \$19.95 pb.

This is a translation of Mario Lungo's useful addition to the rather meagre literature on El Salvador, originally published in 1990 by the Catholic Central American University, (UCA) as *El Salvador en los 80: contrainsurgencia y revolución*. One of the few Salvadorean academics actually writing in country, Lungo provides us here with a well-argued analysis of the political shifts and changes during the 1980s, a decade dominated by civil war. His refreshingly unpartisan and accessible style is only slightly spoilt by the overly literal translation. The book consists of an introduction by Arthur Schmidt and seven chapters. The first five chapters were written towards the end of 1989, when an end to the civil war still seemed far off. The final chapter and epilogue were added in 1992, shortly after the Chapultepec Peace Accords finally produced an end to the civil war.

The major thesis of this work is that the period 1979–89 encapsulated a distinct political period which would culminate in a clear victory for either the

revolutionaries or the ruling oligarchy. The defining processes of the period were, according to Lungo, the political recomposition of the ruling classes, a result of 'the persistent hegemonic crisis of the bloc in power', and the emergence of a 'lively popular revolutionary alternative' able to counter the military weight of the US-backed Salvadorean armed forces.

This recomposition came about with the eclipse of the US-supported Christian Democrat option and its replacement by a new right wing under the ARENA party, consolidated in several elections during the 1980s and accompanied by new economic think-tanks and substantial US financial support.

The chapter on politico-military strategy is useful, charting the building of the FMLN rearguard, their discussions around the role of insurrection and explaining how the FMLN, despite obvious geographical constraints, was able to withstand superior firepower and sophisticated counterinsurgency strategies, both military and economic.

Another informative section deals with the evolution of FMLN thinking from the early 1970s onwards. Hindsight affords a clear explanation of the relationship and strategies of the different groups as they moved towards unity and then the adoption of a 'popular and revolutionary alternative'.

The conclusion then drawn is that the permanent political recomposition of the political power of the elite in El Salvador implies a solution of the crisis of hegemony in the dominant bloc, which in turn requires the strategic defeat of the revolutionary forces. In his epilogue the author admits the error of this original thesis in that the war ended without clear victory for either side. Perhaps another area open to dispute is when he concludes that there will not be future splits in the FMLN or ARENA, both of which have occurred since. In his defence it may certainly be stated, nevertheless, that his analysis of the reorientation of the economy, society and state have been borne out by the events of recent years.

This book will be particularly important for Salvadorean specialists, but deserves a place on the shelf of any scholar researching war, transition, or Central America. The lamentably over-extended introductory essay by Arthur Schmidt, it is hoped, will not put readers off before they reach the commencement of this valuable contribution to the literature on a little-researched country.

Bradford University

ANNA MARY KEENE

Manuel de Paz-Sánchez, *Zona Rebelde: La Diplomacia Española ante la Revolución Cubana (1957-1960)* (Tenerife: Gobierno de Canarias, Cabildo Insular de Fuerteventura, Ayuntamiento de la Laguna, Ayuntamiento de Icod de los Vinos, Centro de la Cultura Popular Canaria, 1997), pp. 401, pb.

The link between Spain and Cuba is not an uneventful relationship between two ordinary states. In the colonial past Cuba was known as 'the ever faithful isle'. Apparently, faithfulness works both ways, since upon becoming independent, Cuba received one of the largest number of immigrants in Latin America. While becoming more closely linked to the United States in terms of the economy, Cuba became more Spanish than before its independence.

This may explain why when Spain was ruled by General Francisco Franco, an authoritarian, anticommunist dictator, linked by a military treaty to the United States, he maintained close political and economic relations with Cuban Marxist