

Hitler's Secret War in South America, 1930-1945: German Military Espionage and Allied Counterespionage in Brazil. By STANLEY H. HILTON. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1981. Bibliography, index, illustrations. Pp. 353. \$20.00 (cloth), \$13.00 (paper).

Stanley Hilton is one of the most respected Americans writing Brazilian history today. His research has focused on the early Vargas period (1930-1945), particularly on the Brazilian fascist party, the Integralistas, and Brazil's relations with Nazi Germany. *Hitler's Secret War* is thus a continuation of Hilton's previous works and deals with Nazi and Allied intelligence operations during the Second World War. The book caused an enormous controversy in Brazil where it was originally published as *Suastica sobre o Brasil* due to its implication of Nazi collaboration by several Integralistas still active in politics, as well as by the exiled leader of the Integralistas, Plinio Salgado. The controversy in Brazil over this book made it a best-seller there.

Hitler's Secret War is a detailed study of Abwehr (German Military Intelligence) operations in South America from 1939 to 1942. Hilton has been able to put together a complete story of Nazi intelligence efforts in Brazil using Abwehr records captured during the war and declassified in the United States, American intelligence records, and Brazilian police interrogations of captured Abwehr agents. Abwehr activities in the western hemisphere were centered in Brazil for a variety of reasons. Although German agents used several techniques to send information to the Reich, including coded letters and invisible inks, the major emphasis was on radio transmissions since airwave interference was minimal in the southern hemisphere. Of equal importance to superior radio transmissions were Brazil's large and sympathetic German population, abundant resources, strategic location on the Allied convoy routes, and the Brazilian dictator (who was thought to be sympathetic to the Nazis). All of these contributed to make Rio de Janeiro the center of the Abwehr espionage effort.

Anticipating the eventual capture of their agents as an inevitable consequence of the war, German leaders recruited new agents throughout South America and intentionally set up rival groups in Rio de Janeiro to compete with each other for funds and prestige. This antagonistic relationship backfired, however, by inhibiting cooperation and limiting the effectiveness of intelligence gathering. Even during the 1939-1942 period, Germany's South American agents provided scant assistance to the Nazi submarine campaign

against Britain, primarily because of the limited, and at times conflicting, reports of the Rio teams.

Hitler's Secret War is a study in the failure of the Brazilian espionage effort. Within six months after Brazil broke diplomatic relations with Germany (January 1942), virtually all Abwehr agents had been arrested, and operations had ceased in Brazil. This necessitated the shift of covert operations from there to Buenos Aires. The collapse of the espionage ring was the result of the Vargas government's new political alignment on the side of the Allies. Aware of German activities before the diplomatic break, the Brazilian police no longer tolerated their espionage groups, and with the assistance of American agents, quickly and ruthlessly destroyed their network.

In the final analysis, the German intelligence effort was not of major importance to Brazilian and World War II history. As previous research by Hilton shows and as Frank McCann points out, by 1939 the Germans had little influence in Brazil and no important allies within the government, despite the admiration for the Nazi system by leaders of the armed services. Although Hilton's narrative is exciting and exhaustively detailed, he proves conclusively that German agents did not provide essential information for the Nazis and did not threaten either the Battle of Britain or Brazilian security. Hilton's thorough scholarship, however, makes this book useful to specialists in the field.

W. Michael Weis
Ohio State University

Medieval Slavery and Liberation. By PIERRE DOCKES. Translated by ARTHUR GOLDHAMMER. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982. Pp. vii+291. Notes, index. \$27.00.

This book, originally published in France as *La Libération médiévale* (1979), is not so much a study of ancient and medieval slavery as it is an application of Marxist sociopolitical theory to the question: When and why did slavery come to an end? "Gang-slavery," as Pierre Dockes calls it, that form of slavery which existed on the great villae during the late Roman and early medieval period in Italy and Gaul, is the subject to which this question is addressed. The viability of chain-gang slavery on the great villae depended on the stability of the state. When the state grew weak, the gangs of slaves working on the villae tended to be broken up. Individual slaves were sent with their families to work