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Soviet Strategy in Latin America

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any attempt to get even through his book. Unfortunately, his obvious bitterness spills over into a spiteful attack aimed at destroying Sadat's reputation. In fact, *Autumn of Fury* was considered to be so potentially disruptive by the Egyptian government that it has been banned in Egypt.

Heikal leaves few areas of Sadat's life unscathed. He dwells at length on Sadat's black Sudanese mother and how she left him a life-long racial inferiority complex. Heikal's deep resentment of Sadat's humble beginnings and lack of high-level education is readily apparent, and he presents Sadat as a comic figure dwarfed by Nasser during their early days in the Free Officers Movement. Laid bare also is the post-1973 corruption brought about by the *infatih* or "open door" economic policy which Sadat used to lure Western businesses and return to a free market system. Many of Sadat's associates and family, particularly Osman Ahmed Osman, Egypt's richest and most flamboyant "fat cat," are alleged to have gained hundreds of millions of dollars at government expense.

While his personal vendetta may disappoint some of his old readers, he does provide some useful insight into the inner workings of Moslem fundamentalist groups such as the *Takfir wal Hijira* (Repentance and Holy Flight) which assassinated Sadat. He points out that this group's objective was to disrupt Sadat's efforts towards normalization of relations with Israel and the Western-

ization of Egyptian culture. Details on a fundamentalist group such as the *Takfir wal Hijira* are hard to obtain and *Autumn of Fury* provides a very useful backdrop.

Another area which will be of interest to readers is the charge that Sadat squandered Egypt's strategic position and advantage by signing the Camp David agreement. This, he claims, neutralized Egypt militarily, isolated it politically from the rest of the Arab world, and turned the once-powerful country into a mere vassal of the United States. However, Heikal feels that under President Mubarak the Egyptians are slowly feeling their way back to their former leadership role in the Middle East.

Autumn of Fury is a flawed book, but it has an important message. It is not vintage Heikal but worth reading because it provides an opportunity to learn how an influential Egyptian, albeit outside the government, views the harsh realities of Sadat's rule and the future of our relations with Egypt.

E.V. BADOLATO
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Leiken, Robert S. *Soviet Strategy in Latin America*. New York: Praeger, 1982. 124pp. \$6.95

Author Robert Leiken's *Soviet Strategy in Latin America* is a most timely and authoritative book on one of the world's hot spots. Leiken provides a scholarly and realistic view of Soviet activity in Latin America, with emphasis on Central America and the Caribbean, since the 1959 Cuban Revolution.

Unlike most authors, active politicians and military leaders, Leiken does not emphasize Soviet military might and nuclear weapons inventory. Rather, he concentrates almost exclusively on Soviet diplomatic, economic and commercial "offenses" starting with the USSR's opening venture—to win the hearts and minds and nations in the Third World—in Angola in 1975. He reviews the tremendous growth of Soviet trade with Latin America from \$68 million in 1960 to over \$900 million in 1977.

His discussion and viewpoint of Soviet-Cuban relations provides a refreshing analysis of this sometimes rocky friendship. He reminds readers, or enlightens them to the fact that Andropov's and Castro's brands of communism are not a homogeneous ideological mix. Soviet participation in Cuba's total import/export market is now 70 percent, up from 48 percent in 1975, plus Cuba's total reliance on Soviet military aid almost guarantees active Cuban support for Soviet adventures and interests in Latin America.

Leiken recognizes the widely differing cultural, ethnic, social, political and economic history of Central American, Caribbean and the littoral states in northern South America. While he does not discuss all of the nations and islands in the region, he succinctly relates the enormous strategic role the region commands in both the Atlantic-Pacific and north-south trade routes.

The strongest point of the work is

the author's relatively unbiased but detailed examination of the USSR and Cuban actions in Central and South America with his major emphasis on the three most potentially explosive nations—Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua—especially since the beginning of the Sandinista revolution. The growing presence and influence of the Soviet Union in the United States' backyard is thoroughly covered.

Leiken's treatise has been meticulously researched and profusely footnoted. Lack of an index somewhat diminishes the book's value as a research tool, however, the relative brevity of the book and a detailed table of contents offsets this one weakness.

As stated in the book's foreword by former Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, William D. Rogers, "Leiken has contributed importantly to the general understanding of Central American events and Soviet designs. And his timing could hardly have been better."

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Rubin, Barry. *The Arab States and the Palestine Conflict*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1981. 298pp. \$22, paper \$10.95

Barry Rubin, whose earlier book treating US policy in Iran (*Paved with Good Intentions*) may be familiar to many readers, has now turned his attention to the struggle for Palestine. Using archival, as well as standard historical sources Rubin