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*THE UNITED STATES VERSUS PORFIRIO DIAZ.* By Daniel Cosío Villegas. Translated by Nettie Lee Benson. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963. 259 pp. \$5.00.

In this monograph Professor Daniel Cosío Villegas has written a detailed account of Mexican-American relations from 1877 to 1881, the period of the first Díaz administration. Díaz' chief diplomatic objective when he took office after his revolt against President Lerdo de Tejada was to win American recognition for his new regime; to demonstrate his good faith he lost no time in raising enough money to meet the payment due the United States under a claims agreement signed by the late Mexican government.

The United States took his money but refused recognition. The Americans furthermore made it clear that they did not intend to accord such recognition until the Mexicans promised to abolish their Free Zone and put a stop to the Indian raids along the Texas border. With the rise of the cattle kingdom in Texas, border raids became an increasingly important problem. The new Hayes administration took the position that since the rustlers were using Mexican soil as their base, and since the Mexican government seemed incapable of effective action, American troops would occasionally have to cross the border if the raids were to be suppressed. The Mexicans naturally opposed such a violation of their sovereignty, but nevertheless showed their good will by giving the command of the northern frontier to one of their top military men.

The basic problems, however, demanded diplomatic solutions, and negotiations were begun in Mexico City between an American representative, Foster, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vallarta. The two men discussed at length the questions of recognition, forced loans on Americans, the Free Zone, and border problems, including the right of American troops to cross into Mexico. The United States began by demanding satisfaction on all points as a prerequisite to recognition, but while John W. Foster was able and intelligent, he was still no match for the jurist and constitutional lawyer who headed the Mexican Foreign Ministry. Vallarta and Díaz played for time and ultimately got recognition in April of 1878, without committing themselves in advance on any of the questions at issue. It was, in short, a complete triumph for Mexico. Both countries did their best to remove the causes of irritation along the border, and finally in 1880 the United States revoked its order permitting American troops to cross into Mexico.

*The United States Versus Porfirio Díaz* is an exceptionally well researched book, based on extensive work in the archives of both Mexico and the United States. Those interested in the total picture of Mexican foreign relations in the first Díaz term will find the complete story in Cosío Villegas' outstanding volume, *El porfiriato, la vida política exterior*. Dr. Benson has performed a real service by making this book available in English, for it gives American historians the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the work of a truly distinguished Mexican colleague.

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