

OTHER NATIONS

socialist, self-reliant, economic structure," says Riddell. This is likely to mean nationalization of all land, the resettlement of large numbers of rural blacks, and a system of communal farming units; reorganization of industry to produce goods for mass consumption; control of foreign investment; and a narrowing of income differentials at the expense of managerial, industrial, and bureaucratic job holders.

Such a strategy would be bitterly opposed by the small but powerful group of people (blacks as well as whites) who do well under the existing system. Riddell concludes that the Ian Smith option entails little structural change, and thus offers little chance of solving basic economic inequities. The Popular Front option presents huge short-term problems but does address the needs of the poor majority, and "holds out the greatest hope for the war-weary Zimbabweans."

A Post-Terror Prognosis

"Between Repression and Reform: A Stranger's Impressions of Argentina and Brazil" by Fritz Stern, in *Foreign Affairs* (July 1978), 428 East Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md. 21202

Democracy in Latin America has all but disappeared over the last decade. Even in countries where democratic institutions survive, social and economic conditions are inhospitable to healthy liberal democracy. But, despite authoritarian trends, Stern, a Columbia University historian, finds "a presumption for change" in Argentina and Brazil.

This presumption is rooted partly in Latin America's traditional ties with Europe, strengthened now by Common Market investments and trade. The recent transition to democracy managed by Spain and Portugal may prove a handy model for reform. And the success of Latin America's military-technocratic regimes in restoring order and promoting economic growth also argues, paradoxically, for change; with terrorism and inflation under control, how can repression be justified?

Unfortunately, a state of latent repression remains in Argentina under the military junta of President Jorge Rafael Videla, even though most foreign observers (and Argentinians) believe the "war" against left-wing Montonero terrorism has been won. The government, which came to power in 1976 determined to crush the guerrillas, seems afraid to admit victory for fear of being called to account for past excesses once repression is relaxed.

In Brazil, the benefits of a long economic boom (1968-74) have been slow to filter down to the masses, and unions are denied the right to strike. Lately, there have been some changes. The regime of President Ernesto Geisel has lifted censorship for most newspapers, and police torture seems to have been halted (as of April 1977).

Both countries, still suffer from their leaders' indifference to the ideals of democracy, including such preconditions of reform as the rule of law and broader participation in political and economic life by all strata of society.