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Book Review: New World Constitutional Harmony: A Pan-Americanadian Panorama

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New World Constitutional Harmony: A Pan-Americanadian Panorama. By George Jaffin.

This is a reprint of an article from a recent issue of the Columbia Law Review. It appears with a "Foreword" appropriately in four languages, wherein it is stated to mark the beginning of a long-range policy of the Review to foster more general understanding of the existence of numerous legal problems of equally vital interest to both parts of the Western Hemisphere. Whether or not this laudable policy can be maintained, there is no doubt of the high value of this essay, perhaps even higher for us than for our southern neighbors. For it shows how comparable are our constitutional problems and how much we might learn by intimate contact with countries which have largely accepted our constitutional ideology while retaining a degree of flexibility in the field of social and economic amelioration we are only now slowly recapturing. Direct machinery for the protection of constitutional guaranties, such as the Mexican amparo, which serves a purpose we must achieve indirectly by private party litigation, is another fruitful subject for our study. Incidentally the author has some good things to say as to the dangers of a one-sided Anglo-American union which would thrust large segments of the New World into the seriously opposing, perhaps menacing, Pan-Hispanic union. Let us hope that the author and the Review can continue with essays equally meaty in a field where we must know more than we now do if any scheme of rational post-war adjustment is to be developed.

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