

New

THE GERMANS IN CHILE

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION (1849-1914)

by **George F. W. Young**

This work elucidates the antecedents of the German colonization, recounts the history of the immigration, settlement and subsequent economic flowering of the colonies, and explicates the reasons for the special success of the Chilean Germans in establishing their German identity so firmly as to withstand the defeat of two world wars.

Through a careful on the spot research the author provides many insights into the Chilean Deutschtum as a product both of the mid-19th century German emigration and of the receptive Chilean environment.

Chile has long been a favored area for research by North America social scientists. But this aspect of Chilean and Latin American immigration history has never before been treated in English, nor has it received really comprehensive scholarly treatment in either Spanish or German. Yet the German immigration and settlement in Chile had a very special impact both directly in opening up the southern provinces and in contributing to early economic development, and indirectly in disposing Chilean opinion by its example to strongly favor European immigration even to the disadvantage of its own indigenous population.

German immigration and colonization merits special consideration even outside the Chilean context,

Young's study helps to understand Chile's many singularities and contradictions of legalism and brutality. It sheds light on the conflicting history of peaceful progress and violence for social change. The recent development of the study of intergroup relations in the social sciences shows also that such research must be comparative, by rethinking intergroup relations in a world perspective.

Dr. Young is Professor of Latin American and Iberian History at Saint Mary's University, Halifax, N.S., and is on the Executive Council of the Canadian Association of Latin American Studies.

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