

SELECTED REVIEWS AND COMMENTS OF BOOKS AUTHORED BY CARMELO MESA-LAGO¹

I. SOCIAL SECURITY: PENSIONS, HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL ASSISTENCE, ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Modelos de la Seguridad Social en América Latina: Estudio Comparado* (Buenos Aires: Ediciones SIAP, 1977, 221 p.). Expanded English edition: *Social Security in Latin America: Pressure Groups, Stratification and Inequality* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1978, 352 p.).

“There seems to be little doubt that academics are able to bring a degree of critical detachment to the study of social security which is often lacking among those who plan or administer the system. When in addition the academic has been involved in national social security reforms, as Mesa-Lago has, then he should be well equipped to write on the subject both with frankness and insight... The author is to be congratulated on having amassed such a wealth of statistical data and on the way he has used it... This text will without doubt serve as a most useful reference on the five countries covered” (*International Social Security Review*, 1980).

“This book is the most important contribution so far, in the field of socio-economic analyses of social security. Although its scope is limited to Latin America, I believe no social security specialist will be able to ignore this work in the future. Many of them will benefit from the new methods of analysis developed by the author. With this publication, a new stage in the study of social security begins: more scientifically and analytical, based on an original methodology developed by the author, which for the first time, allows for a better comparison among countries and through time” (Roberto Hernández, *El Trimestre Económico*, 1981).

“Mesa-Lago is without doubt the most qualified specialist in the modern study of social security in Latin America. This book is the most thorough and profound study done so far on this theme under a social science approach, and it summarizes twenty years of his comparative research on the region” (Ariel Gianola, Labor Magistrate, Montevideo, *Revista de Derecho Laboral*, 1982).

“Mesa-Lago’s book offers great richness on information related to the evolution, characteristics and problems of social security in a group of countries” (Héctor Dieguez, Economist, Instituto Torcuato Di Tella, Buenos Aires, *Desarrollo Económico*, 1979).

“This is the best book in English, and probably in any language, on the social security systems of Latin America... This is a volume that university and college libraries will want to possess” (*Choice*, 1979).

“Mesa-Lago’s [book is a] valuable contribution to the literature of comparative social security. By establishing a common framework of analyses for each country, the author makes possible qualitative and some quantitative comparisons... [He] makes the entire book accessible to those scholars of social security who know little about Latin America. Students of Latin American

¹ Summaries of reviews; those published in Spanish, German, French, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese were translated to English. Full reviews are available on request.

economic development also have much to learn from the book, because the scope and structure of social security systems can affect the course of economic development... There may be lessons for the developed world, as well” (Bruno Stein, Professor of Economics, New York University, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 1981).

“Any social scientist that consciously sets out to explore, to understand and to compare the social security systems of five Latin American countries deserves to be encouraged and cautioned. The task [to do in one single country] is enough to make any scholar think twice; to do so for five disparate nations, and then to compare them, borders on the audacity... Yet Mesa-Lago has not only undertaken the job, he has done so thoroughly rigorously, and usefully. Nor is this study simply descriptive... [he] moves social security legislation from the dusty recesses of bureaucratic tedium and presents it essentially political, capable of reflecting, maintaining and creating inequalities in the larger society” (Henry Dietz, Professor of Government, University of Texas, *American Political Science Review*, 1980).

“Judged by criteria of topical importance and scholarly competence, I find this book to be the most significant and innovative contribution on comparative policy in Latin America to appear in recent years... Students of comparative policy analysis and applied economics will find [here] interesting methodological discussions, especially on the measurement of inequality. Specialists on labor history and pressure group politics will find interesting the attempts to line group’s capability to policy outcomes. Social security professionals have virtually a regional handbook...” (John Bailey, Professor of Political Science, Georgetown University, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 1980).

“This is an unusually comprehensive study of the historical evolution, the politics, and the comparative attainments of social security in five Latin American countries... Over a hundred tables and figures supplement the massive and detailed descriptions of national programs and their development over time. No reader will doubt the author’s prefatory note describing the work as the end product of two decades of intense preoccupation with the subject matter” (George Rohrlich, Professor of Economics, Temple University, Philadelphia, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 1980).

“This work is highly recommended as an informative and competent treatment of the problem of social security inequality... The hypotheses are generally supported by the data... The set format and generous detail of the case studies make for heavy going. But, Mesa-Lago has wisely foreseen this possibility and has summarized each of the main sections of these chapters. While the general reader will be satisfied with the shortened course, the specialist will find the book invaluable in its entirety” (Edmund V. Sheeney, GATT Economist, *Southern Economic Journal*, 1980).

“As a compendium of information the book will be of much value, whether it be used in the discussion of specific social security questions or as a contribution to a wider analysis of the inequalities inherent in Latin America’s class systems...” (Emmanuel de Kadt, Professor of Development, University of Essex, *Journal of Development Studies*, 1980).

“[There are two approaches in the analysis of social security. The first uses] a relatively limited, crude set of aggregate cross-national indicators [applied to] a large number of countries for sophisticated statistical analysis... A second [relies] on holistic, qualitative grasp of the institutional structure of one or at most a few countries... Mesa-Lago is indeed somewhere between the extremes... As a sheer and immensely laborious descriptive effort [Mesa-Lago’s book] is definitive... But the strength and focus of this book lies not so much, and certainly not

alone [there, but] in the attempt to tackle the issue of equality” (Henry Landsberger, Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina, *Latin American Research Review*, 1981).

“One of the merits of this book is the opening of a new way for research on social security in Latin America; it is the first theoretically-based and comparative study that goes beyond judicial and historical aspects of this sphere and provides a paradigm for the analysis of other dimensions of social policy” (Ernesto A. Isuani, Political Scientist, Mendoza, 1980).

“Mesa-Lago’s [book] is a pioneer and important work... a very important study of social security systems in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay... Detailed statistics support the conclusions and are valuable for themselves” (*Handbook of Latin American Studies*, Hispanic Foundation, Library of the Congress, 1979).

“A valuable contribution in both methodology and substance, this work is highly recommended for specialists on social security, pressure groups, methodology and Latin America” (*Library Journal*, 1978).

“This trailblazing compendium, a major reference work, is of great value to all those dealing with the problem of social security anywhere” (*Latin America in Books*, 1980).

“This book is the first attempt to apply social sciences approaches and methodologies, in a multidisciplinary fashion, to a comparative study of social security in Latin America” (*Revista de Seguridad Social*, 1980).

Other reviews and notes: *Ageing International*, 1979; *Revista Internacional del Trabajo*, Geneva, 1980; *International Review of Social History*, 1980; *Grundfragen sozialer Sicherheit in Entwicklungsländern*, Munich, 1981.

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *El Desarrollo de la Seguridad Social en América Latina* (Santiago: CEPAL, 1985, 348 p.). Expanded English edition: *Ascent to Bankruptcy: Financing Social Security in Latin America* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1989, 290 p.)

“A very important book, with scientific precision, especially valuable in the description and minute analysis of several problems of social security in little studied areas, particularly its costs, and because of the erudition and prestige of the author is obligatory lecture in one of the most relevant themes of our times” (Hugo de los Campos, *Cuadernos del CLAEH*, Montevideo, 1986).

“Mesa-Lago is widely acknowledged as the leading expert on Latin American social security systems... his advice has been sought by dozens of governments in the region, and he has published his findings in dozens of books and articles. *Ascent to Bankruptcy* brings his years of experience in a single volume... of interest to all concerned with Latin American development... and the diminished role the government [is playing] in providing social services to ameliorate poverty. Mesa-Lago demonstrates in his excellent book how social security must adjust to changing realities in the region” (William McGreevy, World Bank, 1989).

“A comprehensive scholarly work that is a must for students interested in the development of social security in Latin America... A realistic honest appraisal supported by the best statistics one can possibly obtain. Represents the culmination of efforts over many years, combining theoretical research and on-site evaluations” (Beryl Frank, Social Security expert OAS, 1989).

“This volume provides the most comprehensive review available of social security, health and safety, maternity, pension, unemployment and welfare benefit programs in Latin America. Surely Mesa-Lago, an internationally recognized scholar whose previous works on social security systems constituted the largest part of a very narrow literature on the subject, has written the definitive study on the subject to date” (J. L. Dietz, *Choice*, 1990).

“This book is distinctive for the way it directly assails problems of social security administration, politics, funding and coverage in Latin America. Drawing on his extensive knowledge of the region’s complex policies and programs, Mesa-Lago offers a detailed exposition of the reasons for the current crisis. ...[His] analysis is contemporary and incisive [and the] conclusions are not based on impressionistic evidence but on an impressive analysis of budgets, reports and other official documents... he also offers six detailed case studies... and several important policy prescriptions for remedying the problems. Proponents of social security in Latin America and elsewhere would do well to heed his admonitions, and to respond with greater determination to the problems and the solutions he has identified” (James Midgley, *Journal of International and Comparative Welfare* 1993).

“Over the years, Mesa-Lago has made invaluable contributions to the analysis of the nature and evaluation of social security and healthcare policies in Latin America...*Ascent to Bankruptcy* will become an essential source of information and an indispensable tool for future research on the topic. The data collected has been rigorously compared and analyzed. Mesa-Lago also provides suggestions for policy reforms that should be seriously considered by the social security agencies in each country and by international organizations” (Silvia Bortutzky, *Latin American Research Review*, 1993).

“The book makes a very important contribution to the understanding of social security systems in Latin America [and] is a valuable contribution in the literature on social security systems in developing countries” (Curtis M. Jolly, *Journal of Developing Societies*, 1992).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, editor and author, *The Crisis of Social Security and Health Care: Latin American Experiences and Lessons* (University of Pittsburgh, Latin American Monograph Series, 1985, 365 p. Spanish edition: *La Crisis de la Seguridad Social y la Atención de la Salud: Experiencias y Lecciones Latinoamericanas* (México DF: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1986, 443 p.).

“No: this is *not* a boring book for experts! The volume put together by Mesa-Lago deserves to have a much wider readership than that likely to be attracted by its somewhat forbidding title. Though some of the chapters are, indeed, mainly for experts, much of what is offered is surprisingly illuminating of fundamental problems of concern to many students of Latin America. The result of a two-year research project, it shows that editing a book involves more than slapping a few heterogeneous papers between hard covers: taking the job seriously, as this book eloquently testifies, is essential ...In the book, understanding social security becomes a tool for understanding society—and vice versa. A very good read” (Emanuel de Kadt, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 1987).

“Many of the contributions are of a very high standard and deal with important and significant topics. Mesa-Lago’s concluding chapter, which compares the social security approaches adopted by ideal-typical states such as Chile, Costa Rica and Cuba is broad in its sweep yet incisive and masterly” (James Midgley, School of Social Work, Louisiana State University, *Journal of Development Studies*, 1986).

“Mesa-Lago chooses for study three different models of economic organization and social security regimes: Costa Rica, Cuba and Chile, compares the results of their diverse policies concerning coverage, financing, benefits, costs and their effects on employment and income distribution... Because of its richness of ideas and information, particularly statistics, this volume ... is indispensable literature for those interested in the present and future of social security, not only in Latin America, as the problems examined are now faced *mutatis mutandis*, in many countries of the world” (A.M., OIT, *Revista Internacional del Trabajo*, 1986).

“The international comparative approach, not only within Latin America, but also the United States and Europe, allows a very important, dynamic contrast of ideas, and raises questions that often go beyond the specific field and force a reconsideration of development models in the region. The volume offers an impressive amount of up-to-date data and profound analysis from diverse theoretical frameworks, making it indispensable for understanding the subject” (F. I., *Nueva Sociedad*, Caracas, 1988).

“This book widely demonstrates that, for good or for bad, the Latin American experience on social security and health care helps to understand the problems currently confronted in the developed world and to overcome future challenges... It’s very valuable for Latin America because contains a general refined study of the crisis and its effects, as well as an analysis of the strategic options to solve it, including a great diversity of ideological, disciplinary and technical views...it should be useful in the scholarly world because applies social science theory and empirical analysis to an important and scarcely explored field” (*Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana*, 1987).

Other reviews and notes published in: *Cuestión Social* (Mexico), *Boletim do Instituto Brasil-Estados Unidos* (Rio de Janeiro), *Times of the Americas* (Washington D.C.), *South Eastern Latinamericanist* (Florida).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Health Care for the Poor in Latin America and the Caribbean* (Washington, DC: Pan American Health Organization, Scientific Publication, 1992, 234 p.). Spanish edition: *Atención de Salud para los Pobres en América Latina y el Caribe* (Washington DC: Oficina Panamericana de la Salud, 1992, 257 p.)

“This book is a great contribution to the comparative study of health systems and offers sagacious ideas on policies and actions needed to provide access to health care to all those living in rural or urban poverty” (Panamerican Health Organization, 1992).

“Mesa-Lago, longtime observer of social security policies in Latin America, continues to fight for extensive reforms in health and pension programs... [His book] focuses on sectors of the population consistently underserved by health policies. He estimates that 39% of Latin Americans are not covered. Moreover, spending on the poor is lower than on more powerful groups whose benefits are more extensive. He argues that many factors have led to the paucity of care for the poor: a health-policy model that is inappropriate in the region context, high levels of need, administrative obstacles, absence of political power among the poor, and lack of political will. But he also provides detailed descriptions of innovative projects that are tackling some of the challenges of serving the poor... An indispensable source for students of health services and those concerned with poverty and health.” (Margaret Sherraden, *Latin American Research Review*, 1995).

“An important contribution in this area, a useful compendium of the health care situation in Latin America and the Caribbean; it calls attention on the socioeconomic problems faced by a large part of the population. In his balanced conclusions, the author proposes, among policies to protect the poor, a program to fight poverty through health services with a redistributive impact” (N. H. Antia, *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, 1996).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Changing Social Security in Latin America: Towards the Alleviation of Social Costs of Economic Reform* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1994, 213 p.). Spanish edition: *La Reforma de la Seguridad Social en América Latina y el Caribe: Hacia una Disminución de los Costos Sociales del Ajuste Estructural* (Santiago: CIEDESS, 1994, 284 p.)

Selected as “outstanding book in 1995” by the bibliographical journal *Choice*, which noted: “Very well written, an important contribution to the literature on economic reform in Latin America and its consequences; highly recommended.”

“An extraordinary compilation of detailed information that reflects exceptional research and will be a key reference in the field” (Ann Hellwege, author of books on Latin American development, 1994).

“Mesa-Lago is a distinguished scholar whose knowledge on Latin American social security is prodigious [and] his book is infused with a compassionate concern for the progressive improvement of social security systems in the region. Policy makers should take into account his experience when dealing with the critical problems of the region [and] his book should be obligatory reading, both for them and students preoccupied by the urgent needs of social security” (James Midgley, School of Social Service, University of California, Berkeley, *Social Development Issues*, 1994).

“Mesa-Lago has written an important book on an important topic, [which] documents the devastating effects of recent Latin American economic reforms on that region’s poorest groups ... [He] is well qualified to make such an argument, since he has been a consultant on such issues for many of the organizations most directly involved. The analysis is carefully done, and he is quick to point out that the consequences of the reforms have not been the same in all nations. Perhaps more significant are the author’s practical and imaginative policy recommendations. In brief, this well-written volume is an important contribution to the literature on Latin American economic reform and its consequences, and is highly recommended...” (J. T. Peache, *Choice*, 1994).

“Mesa-Lago has spent most of his academic career analyzing, studying and writing about the evolution of social security and health policies in Latin America and is widely recognized [for] his path breaking research in this field. This book is his latest attempt to deal with the role and functions of social security programs [in reducing social costs] of the dual processes of economic restructuring and adjustment...The measures [he recommends] make perfect sense from an economic standpoint and certainly they should be incorporated in pension programs throughout the region” (Silvia Borzutzky, Political Scientist, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, 1996).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago and Fabio Betranou, *Manual de Economía de la Seguridad Social Latinoamericana* (Montevideo, CLAEH, 1998, 334 p.).

“This book updates our knowledge of the economics of social security in Latin America and, with a wide embracing approach typical of a general treaty and the rigor from a vast experience in the

region, accomplishes an excellent synthesis of country cases, problems that have characterized the diverse systems and current reforms... [It] not only analyzes pension and health schemes, but also unemployment and social safety nets... One of the longest and more detailed chapters deals with social security reforms in the 1990s, clearly explaining the financing regimes and illuminating our understanding of some key issues, and clarifying misunderstandings, in the theoretical debates behind the reforms... All those interested in the theme would get access, through this book, to up-to-date, systematized information...and for those who want to deepen the study it's required reading" (Guillermo Alonso, *Política y Gestión*, 2000).

"Rather than a textbook [*manual*], this volume is actually an extensive comparative study of social security systems and their reforms in the region. [It] demonstrates Mesa-Lago vast experience in comparative studies... and constant quest for common patterns related to particular aspects of social security systems in order to establish conceptual categories that help to characterize diverse organizational models ... Of special interest is the abundant quantitative and qualitative information" (Gustavo Demarco, *Revista Internacional de Fondos de Pensiones*, 1999).

"This volume provides ample detail on the region's social security programs both before and after reform... The comparative approach used illustrates the numerous tradeoffs that are inherent in planning pension reform. This is a significant contribution to the literature because in pension reform, the devil really is in the details... Unlike many previous accounts of reform that presented more stylized summaries, this book demonstrates how specific rules and regulations distinguish each pension system, making it difficult to speak of a single region wide reform model" (Stephen J. Kay, *Journal of Latin American Studies and World Affairs*, 2000).

María Amparo Cruz-Saco and Carmelo Mesa-Lago, editors and authors, *Do Options Exist? The Reform of Pension and Health Care Systems in Latin America* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1999, 444p.).

This book seeks to help us better understand the causes and the implications of [pension and health care] reforms in Latin America. Mesa-Lago is the dean of scholars of Latin American social security and the author of countless volumes on the subject. Each contribution provides a wealth of information on the reforms, as well as hard-to-find data on the existing social security systems. For this reason alone, the book will be treasured by anyone seeking to do comparative research on social policy in Latin America. The authors reject the notion that there is a single pension model that should be applied in all countries. Instead, they make a case for adapting reforms according to a country's level of social security coverage, industrial structure, social development and so on. A major contribution to the field; scholars and policy-makers will find it an essential reference for many years to come" (Raúl L. Madrid, Professor of Political Science, University of Texas, *Governance*, 2001).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Reassembling Social Security: A Survey of Pension and Health Care reforms in Latin America* (Oxford University Press, 2008), 454 pp.

"A treasure trove that marries an analytical approach with deep, wide-ranging and long-standing understanding of country experiences. A must have for anyone interested in the tortuous path of social security reforms in Latin America and an up-to-date assessment of their outcomes" (Nicholas Barr, Professor of Public Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2007).

“This book is an elegant and well-researched *tour-de-force* of Latin American pension and health care reforms and their impacts. Drawing on five decades of work on social security systems in the region, Mesa-Lago bridges the gap between pensions and health care through a cross-cutting analysis of vexing policy issues. An invaluable asset for all those grappling with the complexities of social policies in Latin America” (Gerard M. La Forgia, Lead Health Specialist, World Bank, 2007).

“Without a doubt, Dr. Mesa-Lago's study is the most comprehensive, critical and accurate account of the evolution of social security systems—including an impact evaluation of recent reforms—in the 20 Latin American countries. A must read for policy-makers and scholars interested in social security systems” (Núria Homedes, Director of Global Health, School of Public Health, University of Texas-Houston, and Antonio Ugalde, Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Texas-Austin, 2007).

"Mesa-Lago is one of the masters on economics of social security in Latin America. In the last three decades, his ideas, books and accurate papers had influenced many generations of social economists and policy makers in every country of the region. This book is a new masterpiece that will contribute to update the knowledge about the achievements and challenges of the last generation of reforms on social security in Latin America" (André Medici, Senior Social Development Specialist, Inter American Development Bank, 2007).

“This outstanding book presents a complete and systematic comparison of pension and healthcare reforms in all twenty countries of Latin America ... the issues are addressed in a scholarly fashion and supported with solid data, balancing the positive and negative aspects of the reforms and identifying advantages and disadvantages of public and private systems to correct flaws of both and improve all types of systems and reforms” (*International Social Security Review*, Geneva, 2008).

“With its didactic presentation and quasi-encyclopedic coverage of over two-and-a-half decades of pensions and health-care reforms in Latin America, [this book] provides a precious tool for policy makers and social partners...The lessons drawn from the experience of this region are important worldwide because the pension reforms brought about a sea change in the perception of social protection, producing a model that [expanded] to other regions without much questioning until recently... The balanced and clear presentation of different reform models in their socioeconomic and historical contexts and future potential, [makes] this book an indispensable tool for understanding the basic and highly complex issues of welfare reform” (Hedva Sarfati, Former Director Dept. of Industrial Relations ILO, *International Labour Review*, 2008).

“This book is a *tour de force* by the *maestro* of social security systems in Latin America ...an invaluable source for students in the region... The book's comprehensiveness and excellent organization makes it of great value for policymakers and researchers in the region and other parts of the world who are considering reforming their pension and health systems” (Juan Yermo, OECD, *Journal of Pension Economics & Finance*, 2009).

“After more than 40 years of deep and extensive work on social security issues across the entire Latin American region, [‘the enormous task of collecting information on 20 countries since the 1970s’ to date], Mesa-Lago has written this comprehensive book... a ‘must’ reference for anyone, particularly policy-makers... and a valuable book for any university course on Latin American social policy or economic development... an extremely useful research resource to help understand social policy-making and the effectiveness of it... The author portrays reforms models

by elaborating taxonomies that facilitate the comparison and understanding of social protection policies and [their] complexity... One of the most distinctive contributions [is] the analysis of the reform effects on social security principles... a unique effort in pairing the goals and assumptions underlying reforms with their actual outcomes... Mesa-Lago offers a valuable and complete set of policy recommendations, making this book not only an important academic contribution but also a tool... to improve the crafting of pension and health care systems” (Fabio Bertranou, Senior Social Security Specialist ILO, *International Social Security Review*, Geneva, 2009).

“Over the last four decades Mesa-Lago has been the most consistently authoritative analyst of social security in Latin America. [His new] book provides a comprehensive and masterly account of pension and health care reforms, reflecting the attributes one has come to expect from the author’s work: depth of knowledge, acute understanding and easy accessibility... [its is] the definitive study on social security reforms in the region. One of the contributions of the book is to map, on the basis of a thorough assessment, the measures needed to meet the goal of ensuring old age security and health care for all. [It] will find a wide readership, among specialists, researchers, practitioners and students” (Armando Barrientos, Brooks World Poverty Institute, University of Manchester, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 2009).

“This book presents the results of Mesa-Lago’s studies over a 50-year period of social policy in the 20 countries in Latin America... Detailed and strict selection of data supports his voluminous analysis on social security pensions and healthcare reforms in the region... that surpasses all his previous works... He goes further in providing a comprehensive, comparative and substantive academic evaluation of [such] reforms... with the same theoretical framework... His book, the fruit of his many years of observation and analysis of social policy reforms, will be of crucial importance not only for Latin America, but also for many other governments that have introduced structural reforms in recent years, as well as for Japan” (Kanao Yamaoka, Institute of Developing Economies, *Journal of Developing Economies*, Tokyo, 2009). Reviewed in Japanese by June Sato, *Ajia Keizai*, 2009.

“This critical and knowledgeable book is more than timely... The author is the doyen of Latin American social policy; for 30 years his meticulousness, his thorough knowledge of the region and his extensive network of former students have enabled him to write the best-informed and profound publications on Latin American social policy. While cautioning against the extreme stratification of the state-run social security systems in Latin America in his first book, Mesa-Lago later became almost the only expert denouncing pension privatisation ... His new volume represents the essence of his life’s work in the area of social policy... [an] insightful and compact analysis, a must-read, not only for scholars of Latin American social policy” (Katharina Müller, Mannheim University of Applied Sciences, Germany, *Peripherie*, 2009).

“This compendious volume by Latin America’s most respected social security scholar... is undoubtedly the definitive account of the marketization of pensions and health care in the region. It should be consulted not only by Latin American social security scholars but by anyone interested in issues of social policy, privatization and welfare. The author's painstaking research and wide knowledge and experience of the region have informed this landmark study which objectively and dispassionately demonstrates that many claims about the positive effects of marketization has not been realized. He shows that ideology rather than a commitment to provide income protection governed the reforms of the 1980s, [and] that some Latin American countries have already rescinded their privatization policies and others have significantly modified them. (James Midgley, University of California Berkeley, *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 2010).

“Mesa-Lago offers a magisterial survey of reforms in pensions and health care since the 1990s... that covers most countries in the region. *Reassembling Social Security* is encyclopedic, an invaluable source of information on specific programs, country by country and on the positions and roles of the various international organizations. An important contribution is the clear and detailed discussion of concepts, definitions, and data in the many dimensions of pension and health systems. Mesa-Lago writes as an impartial and often critical observer and analyst” (Joan M. Nelson, Woodrow Wilson Center, *Latin American Research Review*, 2011).

“The very successful career of Mesa-Lago has been always characterized by the thoroughness of his arguments and the enormous richness of the empirical evidence he uses to support them. His latest book is the culmination of that scientific effort centered in promoting more effective and equitable social policies. It offers a demolishing criticism of the [structural] reforms but never falls into simplistic or superficial arguments, presenting instead numerous facets that enrich our understanding of such processes. A monumental work that excels for its wealth of information, rigor of the proposals, and the very interesting and ambitious research agenda that leaves us for the future” (Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, *América Latina Hoy: Revista de Ciencias Sociales*, Universidad de Salamanca, 2009).

“Mesa-Lago is an example of a university professor whose vast research has resulted in practical implementation, effectively contributed to the development of several disciplines, [and] significantly advanced the social sciences, particularly economics, through his valuable studies on poverty and social security. His works have no epitome... Although there is an important literature on the theme of his book, published by international and regional organizations, we needed a comprehensive and comparative study of pension and health care reforms in all Latin American countries. This book fills that vacuum [and] we are sure that it will stimulate the debate, improve the understanding of the reforms and, above all, lead to better pensions and health care in Latin America” (Luis Aparicio Valdés, Director *Análisis Laboral*, Lima, 2008).

“This book is the quintessence of Mesa-Lago’s research over 40 years on social security in Latin America, combining a systematic study of concepts and principles with the central theme of the solution of the many existing inequalities in access and protection. As one of the most profound experts on this subject, he convincingly succeeds in making comparable and understanding the various systems despite their complexity. Not only he describes the structure of the systems, but confronts their specific consequences, analyzing them with a wealth of data. The greatest merit of this book is its updated presentation of all the lessons resulting from the author’s numerous comparative studies and... the most important challenges, for the benefit of a wide circle of readers interested in sociopolitical issues” (Eva María Hohnerlein, Max-Planck Institut für ausländisches und internationales Sozialrecht, *Zeitschrift für ausländisches und internationales Arbeits- Sozialrecht*, 2009).

Mesa-Lago is an eminence in the field of social security in Latin America and this book is most worthy of his creator, both due to its own brilliance and for gathering inputs of several crops of scholars and experts, most of them former students of Mesa-Lago. If you study or are interested in Latin American social security, this book must be in your library... it is monumental, comprehensive, rigorous, detailed and complete thus making it of unavoidable consultation and discussion” (Juliana Martínez Franzoni, Universidad de Costa Rica, *Revista Centroamericana de Ciencias Sociales*, 2009).

“A meticulous and comprehensive analysis of the pensions and health-care reforms in Latin America [that] combines a detailed study of countries and the elaboration of taxonomies that

contribute to the conceptualization and understanding of said reforms within a global framework... a monumental effort [that] illuminates the specificities and prevents against the risk of easy simplification in the evaluation of the nature and effects of the reforms... [and] allows the questioning of their defenders and detractors. A more than useful contribution to the debate that Latin American societies must do on social security (Silvana Harriett, *Cuadernos del CLAEH*, Montevideo, 2009).

“Thirty years ago Mesa-Lago published his book *Social Security in Latin America: Pressure Groups, Stratification and Inequality*, fruit of a monumental research effort that opened a field virtually absent in the disciplines of economics, sociology and political science in Latin America ... after that pioneering work and a remarkable academic life he gives us this book of colossal dimension” (Aldo Isuani, Profesor of FLACSO, *Nueva Sociedad*, Buenos Aires, 2009).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *World Crisis Effects on Social Security in Latin America and the Caribbean: Lessons and Policies* (London, Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London, 2010, 112p. Spanish edition: *Efectos de la Crisis Global sobre la Seguridad Social de Salud y Pensiones en América Latina y el Caribe, y Recomendaciones de Políticas* (Santiago, CEPAL, Serie Políticas Sociales, No. 150, 2009), 76 p.

“This volume offers a broad regional perspective on the experiences of 25 Latin American and Caribbean countries with lessons from earlier crises for social security pensions, health care and social assistance. Who better than Mesa-Lago could have taken on such a daunting challenge? [The book] special significance...resides in the contribution it makes to understanding the multiple factors at stake, highlighting how these countries recovered from earlier crises and... how and why they have fared better in the current one. He points out that... close to nothing has been published about [the crisis] effects on social security. So he undertakes to fill the gap. A highly didactic and well-structured concluding chapter recapitulates the main findings and policy recommendations for the future sustainability of social protection, broader coverage of the population, adequacy of benefits, reduced administrative costs, improved regulation, transparency and information... a useful guide to policies that have worked and those that have failed. He provides a useful “tool box” in the quest for a balanced and socially equitable recovery from the crisis” (Hedva Sarfati, Former ILO Director of Industrial Relations and Labor Administration, *International Labour Review*, 2010).

“Mesa-Lago attempts in this informative and ambitious book... to determine the impact of the world crisis on social security in Latin America and offers policy recommendations [with] a useful methodology to explore the short-, medium- and long-term evolution. [Three] general messages from his detailed analysis are particularly clear: poor countries are likely to suffer more than the rest and will have more difficulties in implementing successful policies; policymakers’ decisions still matter; and the length and depth of the global crisis will determine the severity of its social consequences. Increasing attention to public debt levels and “sound” economic policy in OECD countries may trigger a new era of macroeconomic austerity and minimalist approaches to social security... far from the ambitious redistributive agenda that Mesa-Lago has been promoting during his whole career” (Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, University of Oxford, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 2010).

“Mesa-Lago, a leading social security expert and social policy analyst, recently has played an eminent role in the activities of the ILO and ISSA in Geneva. This book evaluates the impact of the global financial-economic crisis on social security. The book is doubtless one of the earliest reactions in the academic world to the crisis... passing the available information through the grid

of his regular analytical framework for evaluating social security schemes... an interesting attempt at presenting policy recommendations based on careful and systematic analysis of facts” (Vladimir Rys, Social Security Study Center, University of Geneva, *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 2011).

“As the world struggles to cope with the... global crisis and to find the best policy mix, this timely volume attempts to explain why and how in this crisis Latin America and the Caribbean fared better throughout, and managed to achieve recovery faster than in other crisis. On the basis of this experience, Mesa-Lago formulates recommendations for governments and international and regional organizations on how to address the adverse social repercussions of the crisis on the state, social security institutions. He notes that coping strategies in past decades consisted of a drastic reduction in the state’s role and regulatory functions, and an increasing reliance on the private sector and the market, to the neglect of social protection. He therefore underlines... that the state has a crucial role in the present context and in the future. [He also calls] for closer cooperation among international and regional organizations in the design and financing of economic sustainable strategies that prioritize the maintenance and extension of coverage of social protection. The diversity of experience and outcomes of policies examined should be helpful for policy makers, social actors and intergovernmental organizations the world over” (Hedva Sarfati, Consultant ISSA, *International Social Security Review*, 2011).

“The latest work published by Mesa-Lago, one of the leading experts on social security in Latin America, is a concise and sagacious analysis of the impact of the world economic crisis on social security systems in Latin America and the Caribbean. An indispensable to learn what is happening on social protection in [that region], guided by the best who can show it (Diego Valero, Director of NOVASTEC, *Revista ADC21*, 2011).

Notes: *Social Science Research Network* (USA), *Securité Sociale* (Switzerland), *Zeitschrift für ausländisches und Internationales Arbeits-und Sozialrecht International* (Germany), *Social Security Review* (Switzerland), *Futuribles* (France). Detailed summary: *Revista General de Derecho del Trabajo y Seguridad Social* (Spain).

II. COMPARATIVE ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, DEVELOPMENT

Carmelo Mesa-Lago and Carl Beck, editors and authors, *Comparative Socialist Systems: Essays on Politics and Economics* (University of Pittsburgh Center for International Studies, 1975, 425 p.). Hard cover and paperback.

“Mesa-Lago’s contribution, ‘A Continuum Model for Global Comparison’, is the best chapter of the first section. He classifies China, Cuba, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia according to sixteen ‘variables.’ Some of the variables are: equality over stratification, moral over material incentives.... centralized over decentralized, loyalty over expertise in manager selection, and commitment to world revolution or coexistence. The importance of Mesa-Lago’s scheme is that it attempts to locate different economies relative to their adherence to Marxian principles of socialism... One may hope that the chapters by Mesa-Lago, Fléron, Wilczynski and Hollander will come to the attention of those interested in comparative and socialist economics” (James Dietz, California State University, Fullerton, *Journal of Economic Issues*, 1977).

“The authors of this volume have transcended the varied difficulties by co-authorship and extensive scholarly labor. [The book] contributes generously to the field [of compared socialist

systems]. Their work is frankly empirical and refreshingly non-ideological. The conclusions are fresh and deep; the quality is high. Authors truly compare different socialist systems... and Dr. Mesa-Lago guides the reader through the intricate paths of statism, bureaucracy, decentralization, and centralization” (Elizabeth Clayton, *Slavic Review*, 1977).

I found Mesa-Lago’s essay the most interesting [because] he chooses a sample of six socialist countries and compares them based on 16 pairs of opposite characteristics, to which he assigns values and the estimated totals define the position of the compared systems. China... is the country closest to pole X [ideological and anti-market during the Great Leap Forward]. The country closest to pole Y [economic development and market mechanisms] is Yugoslavia, and intermediates are Cuba, the USSR and Czechoslovakia. This method is very suggestive and may be useful as a preliminary classification exercise. The book is a welcome contribution in this relatively new field of comparative analysis of socialist systems...contributes important statistical material and some useful approaches” (Branco Horvat, Yugoslav economist and scholar, *Economic Analysis*, Belgrade, 1976; translated in *El Trimestre Económico*, 1977).

“This volume is a welcome addition to the growing literature in the field of comparative communist systems ... and involves a much greater effort than the existing works on the theme ... the editors and authors are highly praised for it and [fill] a vacuum of a comparative approach in the field” (Jane Shapiro, *Perspectiva*, 1976).

“The 16 contributions in this book fill a notable gap; they embrace a variety of methodological approaches, from rigorously empirical, to theoretical and typological paradigms. The book is a rich source of information, including tables and statistical information on political and economic aspects of communist societies [and] should be read by all specialists in the field” (Stanislaw Ataron, *The Journal of Politics*, 1977).

“This book is a very useful contribution to the relatively new area of comparative economic and political studies of socialist systems. It is also of interest for students of comparative economic systems” (*Choice*, 1976).

“This volume combines theoretical and empirical approaches in comparative studies of communism... it is rich in statistical tables and graphics and distinguishable among the many existing schools as one that emphasizes quantification and measurement” (Glasgow Institute of Russian Studies, 1976).

“Contains 16 original papers prepared by specialists from all over the world. An effort is made in attempting to advance the methodology comparing socialist systems by combining both theoretical approaches and empirical comparisons in a multidisciplinary fashion, to include most socialist countries” (*Journal of Economic Literature*, 1976).

Review in German by Paul Bödy in *Bücher und Zeitschriftenschan*, 1977.

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Market, Socialist and Mixed Economies: Comparative Policy and Performance—Chile, Cuba and Costa Rica* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), 707p. Paperback, 2003. Spanish edition: *Buscando un Modelo Económico para América Latina ¿Mercado, Socialista o Mixto? Chile, Cuba y Costa Rica* (Caracas: Nueva Sociedad, 2002). Hardcover and paperback.

“A wonderfully discerning book on the comparative economic policies and performances of Chile, Cuba and Costa Rica” (Albert O. Hirschman, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton University, 2000).

“This is one of the best comparative studies involving socialist, mixed and market economies. Mesa-Lago has succeeded in bringing together rich empirical evidence within an attractive conceptual framework. He has greatly expanded our understanding of the functioning of socialist, mixed and market economies” (Jan Svejnar, Professor and Director of the William Davison Institute, University of Michigan, Business School, 2000).

“From Mesa-Lago’s imaginative use of comparative methods we gain much greater insight into each of the three countries than a traditional country monograph would provide. Those interested in comparative economic systems learn much that is new and useful from this pioneering study” (Frederic Pryor, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Swarthmore College, 2000).

“Mesa-Lago moves the field of comparative economic systems forward by a systematic comparison of policies and accomplishments in the economic and social dimensions...The case studies of Cuba and Costa Rica are meticulous to a fault and frankly are brilliant examples of this research method. The case study of Chile is done in the same style [and] adds a nice balance ...this book is an indispensable and most valuable tool and resource” (Roger Betancourt, Professor of Economics, University of Maryland, 2000).

“This is a remarkable book, even by the exacting standards that Mesa-Lago has set himself over his long and distinguished career. It offers depth as well as breadth combined with a mass of detailed statistical information that has been honed carefully to ensure comparability across countries ... [t]he methodology of comparative systems ... offers us a rigorous framework of analysis. It is also significantly more subtle than the rather crude amalgamation of indicators used by the UNDP and the World Bank. Mesa-Lago has done an excellent job in asking difficult questions and exploring answers through a consistent approach that sheds light on each of the countries examined. And the case study of Cuba in particular will merit the attention of specialists on that country for many years to come” (Victor Bulmer-Thomas, Director Institute of Latin American Studies University of London, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 2001).

“This ambitious and massive book is the pinnacle of Mesa-Lago’s long and distinguished career. It is a *tour de force*, a must for serious scholars in the field of comparative economic systems. The author makes meticulous use of comparative system methodology to evaluate the policies and economic performance of three countries that are excellent representations of each of three prototypical systems. This *magnum opus* is extremely valuable for students of comparative analysis of economic systems and policies in general, and of Latin America in particular, because of the methodic stringency of the country comparisons and the impressive compilation of detailed information and historical data series. The clear and concise text makes it accessible to advanced undergraduate and graduate students, as well as to professionals” (Katherine Terrell, Professor of Economics University of Michigan, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2003).

“With the thoroughness, single-mindedness, and creativity that have characterized his scholarly work ... Mesa-Lago has tackled the very difficult topic of contemporary Latin American economic development. [His book] is a remarkably successful effort: ... a volume that raises the bar in the scholarly study of Latin American economics ... Hopefully it will spur other scholars also to enter [this] very challenging field ... This is a very serious and important book. The writing is clear and concise ... accessible to advanced undergraduate and graduate students as well as to professionals. It should be read and assimilated not only by Latin Americanists and

specialists on Chile, Cuba and Costa Rica, but also by the economic profession at large. Replication of Mesa-Lago's methodology for other countries and time periods would be welcome additions to the literature on comparative economic development. However, it is doubtful that there are many scholars with Mesa-Lago's dedication who would be willing to devote the incredible large amount of time and effort that he devoted to this project. The profession owes a debt of gratitude to [him] for undertaking this monumental effort" (Jorge F. Pérez-López, Senior Economist U.S. Secretary of Labor, author of several books on the Cuban economy, *Cuban Studies*, 2002; Spanish version in *Revista de Occidente*, 2003).

"As we had expected from such a prestigious scholar, this is a thorough and rigorous work, with robust and convincing conclusions ... a study of importance and interest, not only for those who are involved with the three analyzed economies, but in general to any reader in developing countries interested in how to improve the combination of growth and equity with democracy" (Joseph R. Ramos, Professor of Economics, Universidad de Chile, *Nueva Sociedad*, Caracas, 2001 and *Cuadernos de Economía*, Santiago de Chile, 2002).

"This book is the *magnum opus* of Carmelo Mesa-Lago, the zenith in his unique academic career, the product of detailed research for more than a decade [and] a rare example of the knowledge and use of the literature about the three countries analyzed. The reader can learn much from this book if he approaches it with the same objectivity of the author. It revitalizes the field of development theory because of its boldness, ambitious goals and solid foundations" (Jorge Rovira Más, Professor of Sociology and noted economic historian, University of Costa Rica, *Ciencias Sociales*, San Jose, 2002).

"Mesa-Lago is already known for his scientific rigor, abundant use of statistics to support his findings and sharp analysis, [which he now] applies to the fundamental and difficult task of advancing the field of comparative economic systems...The discipline of development lacks systematic studies contrasting specific economic models using a common analytical framework... a vacuum filled by this book with the elaboration of standardized statistics, long-term series and a combined index to measure socioeconomic development. But the richest part of the book is that examining the similarities and differences in the three models policies and comparative evaluation of their results... that provide answers to key development questions... Future researchers have the challenge to test the new methodology or the arduous task of creating a better one" (Marcos Lorenzelli, Economist, *Cuadernos del CLAEH*, Montevideo, 2003).

"After a quarter century since his classic book on social security and a prolific academic output, the author offers us a monumental oeuvre, a fruit of ten years of work that establishes solid foundations to future studies under diverse angles of the social sciences. Undoubtedly, this book will illuminate the path of many future works both within and outside Latin America" (Ernesto Aldo Isuani, Political Scientist and Director, *Socialis: Reflexiones Latinoamericanas sobre Política Social*, Buenos Aires, 2002).

"This is a hugely impressive and informative work that examines an important economic and political issue,... an ambitious and successful project, with a wealth of detail on economic policies in three different economic models" (Bruce Wilson, *Latin American Politics and Society*, 2002).

"Mesa-Lago's work has always been scholarly and unbiased, and his latest endeavor is not an exception. I believe this book will become a standard reference for those interested in Latin America and in the methodology for comparative economic analysis" (Juan A. B. Belt, Senior

Economist with a long experience on Costa Rica, Inter-American Development Bank, *Cuba in Transition*, Washington D.C., 2001).

“This book is the voluminous outcome of a ten-year systematic work of compilation and analysis of data in order to compare three economic models through multiple indicators. The result is an accumulation of information of an extension and seriousness without precedent. Would Mesa-Lago’s book contribute to set a new commonsense on technocrats and governments who decide the political agenda in Latin America? I hope so” (Ludolfo Paramio, *Teoría Política*, Madrid, 2002).

“This book is recommendable because of the methodic stringency of the country comparisons (that is missing in many other comparative country studies), and for the amount of detailed information and data on the specific countries. [It also] closes holes in the economic statistics of the international organizations. The strict application of the chosen performance criteria, allows cross-country comparisons regarding policy areas and time periods” (Hartmut Sangmeister, Universität Heidelberg, *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft*, 2001).

“This book, one of the superlative works of Mesa-Lago, explores how to simultaneously reach economic growth and social equity. Each part has an enormous amount of statistics that support the arguments ...the comparative evaluation will attract not only the interest of Latinamericanists but also scholars interested in development... An indispensable work for a wide spectrum of readers that will stimulate studies on social policy in development countries” (Kanao Yamaoka and Hiroki Nogami, *Ajia Keizar—Asian Economics—Tokyo*, 2003).

“The latest book of this renowned economist... provides new evidence of his analytical and academic rigor. It is the result of ten years of work on the two intertwined fields of economic development of Latin America and comparative economic systems, subjects to which Mesa-Lago has devoted four decades of his prolific career. ... Mesa-Lago opens new and interesting paths in the comparative analysis of Latin American economies, offers indispensable methodological guidance, and clearly documents the utility of the case study approach to generalize the findings on economic and social policy. This book is strongly recommended for those who want to understand the socioeconomic reality of the three countries, as well as for those interested in comparative economic systems” (Mauricio de Miranda, Director and Professor of the Department of Economics, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana de Cali, *Cuban Studies*, 2002).

“This book represents the culmination of long years of careful compilation and analysis of data and study of the Latin American economies... [It] is of great utility and interest for a wide variety of readers interested in comparative studies, Latin America and its economy, issues of development, social policy and their interaction with the political process and, of course, students of the recent history of the three case studies selected. Future researchers will support or correct some of the results of this book but, clearly, it represents a landmark, a new point of departure and shall be part of any future analysis” (Alejandro De la Fuente, Associate Professor of History University of Pittsburgh, *Encuentro*, Madrid, 2000).

“*Market, Socialist and Mixed Economies* presents the most recent major work in Mesa-Lago’s prolific career studying Cuba and Latin American economies. This very detailed book ... establishes a systematic formal framework ... is easy to use; the formats of the narratives and statistical sections are the same for each country” (Gail D. Triner, *Latin American Research Review*, 2003).

“This book confirms the outstanding role of Mesa-Lago in the study of the Cuban economy, the result of his fanatical devotion to scholarly work and an extreme discipline to collect, systematize and analyze data from multiple sources” (Jorge A. Sanguinety, Director of Center for Applied Studies in Economics, Miami-Washington, *Cuba in Transition*, Washington D.C., 2001).

"A treasure trove of useful information for country specialists and generalists . . . an impressive volume" (Kurt Weyland, *South Eastern Latin Americanist*, 2002)

“Mesa-Lago’s intimate, deep and extensive knowledge of Chile, Costa Rica and Cuba . . . permitted him to produce three outstanding case studies, combining institutional and policy aspects and systematic data series that allow the comparison of the countries performance” (Francisco León, former Senior Sociologist Department of Social Development of ECLAC, Santiago de Chile, *Cuba in Transition*, Washington D.C., 2001).

"An interesting, groundbreaking, and substantial academic work." (*British Bulletin of Publications*, 2002).

Reviews and articles in newspapers: Leonardo Garnier (*La Nación*, San Jose), Eduardo Alvarado (*Economía Nación*, San Jose), Nelson Murillo (*El Financiero*, Panama), Carlos Alberto Montaner (ABC-Madrid and several newspapers in Latin America), Sebastián Arcos (*Nuevo Herald*, Miami). Listed in: *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Choice*.

III. CUBA: ECONOMY, SOCIAL POLICY, ECONOMIC HISTORY

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, editor and author of five chapters, *Revolutionary Change in Cuba: Polity, Economy and Society* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1971, 560 p.). Paperback, 1973.

“The reader may recall that even academic discussions on Cuba during the early 1960s were typically characterized by frenzied exercises of the tongue of hasty . . . [but now] a new wave of less speculative publications has begun to roll in, . . . [This book] searches for objectivity... The book edited by Mesa-Lago, also contributes more than one-third of its pages... is the best and most comprehensive single work on Revolutionary Cuba of which I am aware” (Carlos Díaz Alejandro, Professor of Economics, Yale University, *The Journal of Economic Literature*, 1973).

“Revolutionary Change in Cuba is a very timely, useful volume; it also is fascinating... But, from the outset, this is much more than the usual collection of conference papers: they are original and careful editing has avoided needless repetition, assured continuity, and provided desirable consistency in organization. While Mesa-Lago appears on the title page as editor, careful attention to acknowledgments and other indications suggest that he was a substantial contributor even for those pieces which he did not author. This is a fine performance in a collective effort directed at a single topic” (John M. Hunter, Professor of Economics, Michigan State University, *Journal of Economic Issues*, 1973).

“Mesa-Lago, himself one of the leading authorities on Cuba, is the author of two very important chapters, and joint author of three others... has put together what is undoubtedly the best existing description of [the evolution of central planning] of the Revolution... [and] contributes another outstanding discussion . . . on economic policies and growth.” (Lowry Nelson, University of Miami, author of the classic book *Rural Cuba*, *The American Political Science Review*, 1973).

“One of the first works which actually attempts—and accomplishes—a comprehensive, well-documented, up-to-date, and relatively objective study of the revolutionary changes that have taken place in Cuba from 1959 to 1970... It is a highly valuable addition to the bibliography of the Cuban revolution, no doubt due to become a standard reference source for the Revolution’s first decade.... Mesa-Lago’s [chapter on economic policies and growth] is virtually encyclopedic in its compilation of information ... balanced as well.. Indeed, with the publication of this book, we know now a lot more about post-1959 Cuba than pre-1959” (José Kesselman, Florida International University, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 1975).

“Mesa-Lago, who enjoys a well-deserved reputation for his work on Cuban statistics, has edited a valuable collection of ... original essays on various aspects of Cuban life since 1959, with consistently high standards of information and analysis... The best part of this volume, largely contributed by Mesa-Lago himself, is the description of the economy after 1959. His scholarship is impressive. His labors attempting to document the poor performance of the economy are highly successful” (Juan Martínez Alier, Oxford University, author of *Cuba: Economía y Sociedad*, in *Latin America Review of Books*, 1973).

“A well orchestrated amalgam of historians, economists, political scientists, sociologists, and educators, has produced... a perceptive analysis... It is fortunate that... Mesa-Lago, Cuban-born, has the necessary background to provide a firm foundation for answering these questions. [His] objectivity is evident, and in neither book does one find political bitterness or personal animosity. Trained in the disciplines of economics, history and political science in non-Cuban universities, his research has been analytical, his judgments balanced” (William F. Barber, Professor of Political Science, University of Maryland, *Queen’s Quarterly*, Canada, 1973).

“Mesa-Lago is the best of the group, a thoughtful and well-read economist who has prodigiously assembled what statistics are available, assessed their reliability, and traced relationships between economy and society” (Aaron Segal, University of Texas, *Caribbean Review*, 1973).

“The collection closes with Mesa-Lago’s essay comparing aspects of the Cuban situation with the Chinese, Soviet, and Yugoslav cases, and then speculates briefly about the future of the Cuban model. As the author realizes, it is a limited and flawed effort at comparison and prediction, but he is to be commended for the attempt” (Richard Fagen, Professor of Political Science, Stanford University, *Political Science Quarterly*, 1973).

“All essays are of a very high standard. Thus the book is an important contribution to an understanding of the Cuban Revolution” (*International Review of Social History*, Amsterdam, 1972).

“A balance of viewpoints and a plethora of hard data make this an invaluable book...” (George Grayson, *The Journal on Politics*, 1972).

“The impression one gets from reading this thick and absorbing book is that Mesa-Lago’s goals of ideological equilibrium, relative objectivity and search for truth have been completely accomplished and that it constitutes a fundamental work to start to understand the Cuban phenomenon in all and each of its dimensions, but mainly political and economical” (JRE, *Progreso*, 1972).

“In an atmosphere heavy with polemics and ingenuous personal narratives, it is a pleasure to encounter a sober, and even arid, book of this type” (Mark Falcoff, Professor of History, University of Oregon, *Library Journal*, 1971).

“An important scholarly addition to the literature on the Cuban Revolution. Recommended for all libraries.” (*Choice*, 1972).

“A judicious and balanced analysis of eleven years of revolutionary government based on the use of every available source” (*Handbook of Latin American Studies*, U.S. Library of Congress, 1972).

“This is a superlative book. [Its] riches flow from its intelligent organization, its talent, its techniques. Dr. Mesa-Lago, lawyer-economist-scholar, has done more than assemble the routine pastiche of chapters. He has woven together subject matter, concepts, and outcome meanings. No matter what your prejudices are, you can read this book with profit and without anger. It is one of the few that must be read by any person, Latinist or not, who pretends to have anything to say about Cuba” (CWM, *Times of the Americas*, 1972).

“[This book is] the result of painstakingly objective research and analysis and [is] indicative of the contemporary upgrading of the field of Latin American Studies as a whole” (Raymond Duncan, Political Scientist, *Problems of Communism*, 1973).

“Mesa-Lago has now put together a volume which is the best available overview of contemporary Cuba” (*Report: An Analysis of Development*, 1972).

“The value of this collection is principally that of sheer documentation, An exhausting, if not exhaustive, compendium of facts and figures, it might prove a useful reference work for the Latin American specialist” (K. P. Moseley, Vanderbilt University, *Social Forces*, 1974).

“We consider [this book] required reading for an understanding of Cuba and what the revolution is all about” (*Perspectiva*, U.S. Association of Professors of Latin American Studies, 1972).

Notes published in *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Latin American Research Review*, *The Wilson Quarterly*, *Perspective*, *Caribbean News*, *World Affairs Council*, *Foreign Service Journal*, *Military Review*, *Problemes Politiques et Sociaux* (Paris), *Argos* (Caracas), *Foro Internacional* (Santiago de Chile). Interviews with Mesa-Lago in *The Pittsburgh Press* and *University Times*.

***Cuba in the 1970s: Pragmatism and Institutionalization* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1974, 180 p. (hardcover and paperback). Second revised edition, 1978, 188 p.; third edition, 1979. Spanish edition: *Dialéctica de la Revolución Cubana* (Madrid, Editorial Playor, 1979, 244 p.). Chinese edition: *Qishi niandai de Guba*—Romanized title from the Chinese (Beijing: Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 1980, 207 p.).**

“The most informative study that I have seen on the subject: sober, carefully prepared, and always well backed by evidence... a really powerful piece of writing” (Sir Hugh Thomas, Historian, author of *Cuba or the Pursuit of Freedom*, 1973).

“Mesa-Lago has, once again, enriched our understanding of the Cuban revolutionary process... He shows that it is possible to perform effectively the intellectual role of criticism of the Cuban

revolution and, at the same time, to empathize with the process under examination... No one can begin to understand the far-reaching changes in Cuba in the 1970s without the always stimulating guidance of this book” (Jorge Domínguez, Professor of Government and International Affairs Harvard University, author of *Cuba: Order and Revolution*, in *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 1975).

“The author fulfills the task he has set for himself admirably.... has substantiated his major arguments and conclusions skillfully and effectively, has scoured the available sources thoroughly, and has pieced together a coherent and well organized synthesis” (Archibald Ritter, Professor of Economics, Carleton University, Ottawa, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 1980).

“This is the most concentrated, condensed and valuable 150 pages of writing on Cuba between 1960 and 1975 that I have yet come upon. For the scholar about to disembark on Cuba, the one indispensable book is Mesa-Lago’s” (Irving Louis Horowitz, Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 1975).

“Mesa-Lago’s account is broad and, as always, contains many new features so far unknown to a wider public... he is able to build in new information into the appropriate context. For anyone following Cuban affairs this book is a must” (Heinrich Brunner, Economist Osteuropa-Institut, Free University of Berlin, author of *Cuban Sugar Policy*, in *Caribbean Studies*, 1974).

“[This book] is must reading not only for Caribbeanists and students of political sociology but for anyone interested in the theory and practice of international power politics” (*Caribbean Studies*, 1979).

“Mesa-Lago has produced an excellent analysis which can be recommended to anyone interested in the last five years in Cuba [and] the first chapter admirably summarizes the five stages of the Revolution” (Francis Lambert, University of Glasgow, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 1977).

“[This book is] exceptionally well written for use in survey courses... [it is a] well documented and balanced interpretation. [The author] is an experienced student of Cuban affairs; this is reflected in the sober and pondered manner in which he analyzes and in his predictions” (Anthony Maingot, Professor of Sociology, Florida International University, *Latin American Research Review*, 1978).

“The author has provided not only a well-argued but a valuable analysis. It will be of interest to those concerned with Inter-American relations and foreign policy, while providing a useful source for undergraduate courses as well... the volume [is] a significant addition to the existing literature” (John D. Martz, Professor of Political Science, University of North Carolina, *Perspective*, 1975).

“[This is] the most important of the recent books [on Cuba]. Mesa-Lago has produced a careful, sober and scholarly picture of the Revolution’s institutionalization... [He] provides his work with the balance that is lacking in [other books]” (Ronald Radosh, City University of New York, *Dissent*, 1976).

“[This book] fills a void caused by a lack of scholarly information on Cuba since 1970... we were in need of a book such as the present study to bring us up to date” (Maria Snethlodge, CEDLA, Amsterdam, *Boletín de Estudios Latinoamericanos y del Caribe*, 1976).

“Mesa-Lago has an ability to assemble his facts, his evidence and his conclusions, as well as to achieve an objective approach. His book is a valuable study of the causes and methods by which Cuban policies have, since 1970, increasingly fallen into line with the policies of the Soviet Union” (José Camacho, Institute of Latin America, Free University of Berlin, *International Affairs*, 1978).

“It is no easy matter to write objectively about the Cuban revolution, especially because it is hard to trust documentation and because it is both an emotional and an ideological issue. Mesa-Lago does a good job of scholarship nevertheless. [...] he tries admirably to interpret the dramatic changes that have altered the course of the Cuban revolution since 1970” (J.G. Ogelsby, University of Western Ontario, *International Journal*, 1979).

“In what may be the best summary of Cuban developments in the last decade, Mesa-Lago has demonstrated again his familiarity with the vast primary and secondary literature in the field and his sensitivity and maturity in interpreting those sources” (*South Eastern Latin Americanist*, 1975).

“This book constitutes the great published synthesis of the Cuban experiment considered in all its aspects, extremely useful for scholars in the field” (Carlos Romero, Political Scientist, *Argos*, Caracas, 1980)

“An informative, cogent, and well documented discussion of recent policy changes in the Cuban Revolution” (*Choice*, 1975).

“This is an excellent purchase because it digs deeply into the current information and is fairly easy reading. It belongs on every shelf in America” (*The Times of the Americas*, 1976).

“This is perhaps the best scholarly work on recent events and a plausible projection of Cuba’s future” (*Perspective*, 1975).

Notes in: *Revue Française de Science Politique* (1976); *El Universal* (1974); *Miami Herald* (1975).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago (editor and author of two chapters) and Cole Blasier, *Cuba in the World* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1979, 350 p.). Hardcover and paperback.

“More than twenty years of scholarly and not-so-scholarly writings on the Cuban Revolution contain much that today would embarrass their authors... For several years, Mesa-Lago has provided the academic community with a stream of publications seldom departing far from data painstakingly gathered and evaluated. The emphasis on the quantifiable earned them scorn from observers more at ease with discussions regarding revolutionary changes in consciousness and the correct path to communism. Assiduous readers of [Mesa-Lago], however, have been in a better position to understand trends in Cuban society over the last ten years... [The last section] opens with two substantial essays by Mesa-Lago on international economic relations and on the economics of Cuban-US rapprochement. Both are crammed with data, nothing new to Mesa-Lago aficionados” (Carlos Díaz Alejandro, Professor of Economics, University of Yale, and internationally known economist, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 1981).

“Serious economic analysis of the Cuban revolution has been relatively scarce in the West. This goes especially for the period after 1970.... partly been the result of lack of available empirical

evidence on the directions of the Cuban economy. Our knowledge of today's Cuba is much widened after reading [this book]. Two of the most interesting chapters are written by Mesa-Lago and deal with an assessment of recent economic development in Cuba... [The first one] demonstrates with lots of statistical evidence that the Cuban growth record in the 1970s has been impressive; ... [the second one] concludes that although the path to full normalization with the U.S. is lengthy, intricate, and laborious, it is obvious that both parties would benefit from such a normalization. The book is also by far the best assessment, at least this far, of the economic development of revolutionary Cuba during its second decade of existence" (Claes Brundenius, Professor of Economics, University of Lund, Sweden, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 1980).

"The Revolution still challenges its observers into taking sides but they are now armed with more hard information and less prejudice than before... some of the credit must be given to the work of the Centre for Latin American Studies of the University of Pittsburgh. It has acted as a clearing house for research on the Cuban Revolution in the United States and its library, its sponsorship of conferences and its publications have made an invaluable contribution to our understanding of post-revolutionary Cuba. [This book] joins an already distinguished list of credits... and the quality of most of the essays is very high" (David E. Stansfield, University of Glasgow, *International Affairs*, 1980).

"Two of the pieces are by Mesa-Lago himself. The first is a thorough survey of Cuba's current economic situation, both domestic and international; the second is a systematic analysis of the costs and benefits Cuba would incur in any rapprochement with the U.S." (William LeoGrande, American University, *Latin American Research Review*, 1981).

"Carmelo Mesa-Lago's two contributions are characterized by his usual attention to detail in data presentation, broad coverage of all important topics, and crisp writing style. His second essay analyzes the economics of U.S.-Cuban rapprochement. The sections detailing the possible list of goods and services to be involved in bilateral trade and evaluating the potential advantages and disadvantages to Cuba of U.S. trade are particularly impressive" (Sergio Roca, Professor of Economics, Adelphi University, *Cuban Studies*, 1980).

"Cuba in the world is an important addition to the rich literature on the Cuban Revolution and serves as a handy reference for specialists on Castro's revolution" (Lester Langley, University of Georgia, *Revista Interamericana de Bibliografía*, 1982).

"One finds in this rich volume many statistical data and correctly handled facts otherwise little known or inaccessible" (*Revue Française de Science Politique*, Paris, 1980).

A symposium commenting the Pittsburgh conference and many of the papers presented there was published (before the book was) in *Sind Journal of Political Science & Modern History* (Pakistan) in 1977. Some of the comments were: "The conference attracted scholars from universities and research institutions from Australia, Brazil, Israel, United States, Puerto Rico and Yugoslavia, as well as ECLAC. Representatives from the Soviet Union and Cuba were invited [and] the Cuban government had left open the possibility of attending [but finally] notified the Center of Latin American Studies that it would not be sending a delegation ... the Academy of Sciences of the USSR withdrew their original commitment to participate. Professor Carmelo Mesa-Lago's efforts in balancing the different viewpoints within the conference's program must also be noted... although their ultimate failure underscores the powerlessness of intellectuals in broadening the framework for discussion" (Marifeli Pérez-Stable, Professor of Political Science, State University of New York). "[The conference] was the best on that subject I have attended. The scope and quality of the papers, the variety of topics, findings and opinions... are difficult to

match, although very much worth emulating” (Jorge Domínguez, Professor of Government and International Relations Harvard University). “Mesa-Lago, the conference’s promoter and organizer, invited participants whose views reflect a broad diversity of ideological opinion, as well as a variety of national and institutional perspectives” (Lynn Darrell Bender, Inter-American University of Puerto Rico).

Other reports and notes in: *Asien, Afrika, Lateinamerika* (Germany), *Revista América Latina* (Instituto de Estudios Latinoamericanos, Beijing), *Argos* (Caracas).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *The Economy of Socialist Cuba: A Two Decade-Appraisal* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1981, 235 p.). Spanish edition: *La Economía de Cuba Socialista: Una Evaluación de dos Décadas* (Madrid: Editorial Playor, 1983, 307 p.).

Arthur Whitaker Award to the best book or article published in 1981 in any discipline dealing with Latin America. Selected among the best books on Latin America by *Choice* (1982): “This book goes far beyond Mesa-Lago’s earlier book *Cuba in the 1970s* and is better than anything else now available... No graduate or undergraduate library should overlook this very special book.” Chosen among the best books of the year by *The Times of the Americas*: “[It] had the most impact of any book that I read on Latin America and the Caribbean in 1981. Balanced, thorough, analytical and based on extensive research in Cuba... It is simply the best book yet published on the Cuban economy” (Aaron Segal, Professor of Political Science, University of Texas, 1982).

“Mesa-Lago has given us a carefully researched book as devoid as possible of ideological polemics or biases... To all those interested in a dispassionate appraisal of the economic performance of the Cuban revolution, [he] has made a valuable contribution.” (Peter Gregory, Professor of Economics, University of New Mexico, *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 1982).

“Mesa-Lago’s latest book on post-revolutionary Cuba is a worthy successor to his previous indispensable contributions. Latin American studies would greatly benefit from the production of comparably sympathetic and skeptical socio-economic description for the other republics” (Lawrence Whitehead, Professor of Economics, Oxford University, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 1983).

“Mesa-Lago’s analytical framework, relating performance to ideology, instruments, and goals, allows him to place in perspective virtually every aspect of Cuba’s economy... which, in the admirable tradition of the Pittsburgh comparative economic group, he illustrates with substantial funds of data” (Adrienne Cheasty, Professor of Economics, Yale University, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 1984)

“Few have elaborated a solid body of scientific knowledge as Carmelo Mesa-Lago. His works constitute an invaluable guidance for anyone interested in the Cuban economy. Through the years he has compiled, polished and, in occasions, completed the principal statistical series of Cuba. In this book, as an artisan alchemist, Mesa-Lago has condensed his own and others research, sometimes unpublished, to produce an equilibrated synthesis of the Cuban economy under the revolution ... prove of what can be done from abroad with honesty and scientific rigor by a scholar who is neither ‘an adversary nor a sympathizer of the revolution,’ but simply a passionate searcher of the truth ... This book is useful not only to know the past but undoubtedly as an unavoidable point of reference for any analysis of the economic future of the island” (Juan Carlos

Jiménez Jiménez, Professor of Statistics, Structure and International Economic Organization, Universidad Alcalá de Henares, *Revista de Historia Económica*, 1985).

“This book contains abundant statistics, not available before. The 46 tables and four appendices are the product of bibliographic research and data supplied to Mesa-Lago by Cuba’s Central Planning Board, in three trips to polish the material in his book” (*Pensamiento Iberoamericano: Revista de Economía Política*, Madrid, 1985).

“Mesa-Lago’s contribution represents the most comprehensive and best documented analysis of the Cuban economy in 1959-1981. Because of the author’s long-standing experience in dealing with Cuban publications, the balanced and informed interpretation of statistical data, and the reliable use of citations, [it] sets a standard work against which past and future research on Cuba are to be measured” (Peter Gey, Professor of Economics, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, *Osteuropa Wirtschaft*, 1984).

“This book contains the most complete collection of Cuban economic data ever assembled. As always, Mesa-Lago is particularly sensitive to their limits, yet at the same time he is able to draw from them a richly detailed profile of Cuban economic performance. Domínguez’s *Cuba: Order and Revolution* and Mesa-Lago’s *The Economy of Socialist Cuba* are definitive works on the politics and economics of the first two decades of revolutionary government in Cuba. Though controversy will no doubt continue, as it should, over the interpretations made in these volumes, they are so comprehensive that they will inevitably serve as the point of departure for debate” (William LeoGrande, American University, “Two Decades of Socialism in Cuba”, *Latin American Research Review*, 1981).

“This is the book for which those interested in the Cuban economy have been waiting. Mesa-Lago has distilled, summarized, and updated in this book the basic research that he has undertaken during the last two decades of studying the Cuban economy since the revolution. This book becomes the essential reference work concerning the Cuban economy. It has no peer on its subject within or outside Cuba... We have at long last the major work of a major scholar. No further work can be done on the Cuban economy without taking into account this scholarly achievement” (Jorge Domínguez, Professor of Government, Harvard University, *Inter-American Review of Bibliography*, 1982).

“[This] is without doubt the most authoritative and comprehensive treatment of Cuba’s economic development during the last two decades. [It] synthesizes, revises, and updates [Mesa-Lago’s] numerous seminal contributions ... in order to present a systematic view of Cuban developments. [But] it is essentially a new book, more ambitious, deeper probing, and methodologically different from his earlier works... the definitive work on the Cuban economy during the first two decades of the revolution and clearly the most important book on the topic available today” (Jorge Pérez-López, Economist U.S. Department of Labor, author of many books on the Cuban economy, *Latin American Research Review*, 1983).

“Mesa-Lago... presents now the results of more of 15 years of research on the Cuban contemporary economy... through rigorous analysis and supported by reliable data... It is a recommendable reading within the bibliography on the revolution, equally marked by both biased critiques and biased defenses of the process... this book successfully attempts to avoid those extremes” (Carlos A. Romero, Professor of Political Science, *Revista Venezolana de Asuntos Mundiales y Política Exterior*, 1986).

“... a product of a good deal of effort over a long period of time. It is detailed, precise, balanced and informative. It is easily understood, so that non-experts can profit from reading it even though its wealth of hard-to-get data makes it an indispensable reference work for professional Latin Americanists” (Bernard E. Segal, Dartmouth College, *Explorations in Sights and Sounds*, 1983).

“... one of the most successful efforts to describe and analyze the economic transformations in Cuba under the revolution [by] Mesa-Lago, the best known representative of a group of U.S. social scientists that study Cuba. One of the virtues of this book is the systematization of information, an important quality in view of the scarce or nil data on Cuba, particularly economic, available abroad” (Raúl Benítez Manaus, Centro de Investigaciones Interdisciplinarias en Humanidades, UNAM, *El Caribe Contemporáneo*, Ciudad México, 1989).

“Carmelo Mesa-Lago’s book is definitely the place to turn for a thoughtful, concise, readable and authoritative appraisal of Cuba’s economy under Castro... [He] has managed to achieve the scholarly objectivity about Cuba that eludes most observers... The picture he paints is empirically grounded, nuanced, and well worth careful study” (Abraham Lowenthal, Professor of Political Science, University of Southern California, 1981).

“... an impressive work which meets the goal of providing a balanced appraisal of Cuba’s economic evolution, demonstrating once again the author’s superior skills, his critical judgment, and his willingness to be guided by the evidence” (Juan del Aguila, Professor of Political Science, Emory University, Atlanta, *Southeastern Latin Americanist*, 1984).

“The author strains to be fair, even when he is clearly at his most critical... I recommend [it] highly” (Edel Matthews, Queens College, *Nieuwe West-Indische Gids*, Netherlands, 1983).

“Certainly one of the most documented books on the subject” (Maxime Aubert, *Revue Tier Monde*, 1983).

“Objective and professional in approach... provides a concise but integrate view of the Cuban economy” (*Foreign Affairs*, 1982).

“A solid and objective economic analysis” (*Latin America in Books*, 1982).

“A standard work in the field... An important, useful book which can be understood by any interested person. It should be in all libraries” (Donald Bowles, American University, *Perspective*, 1982).

“A *tour de force* and clearly required reading for anyone who wants to understand Cuba today” (*Caribbean Business Review*, 1981).

“An outstanding work, a model of objectivity and rigor about a country object of opposite passions” (M. Kahn, *Le Courrier des Pays de l’Est*, 1984).

“The definite study of the Cuban Economy” (Maurice Berube, Professor of Education, Old Dominion University, *Commonwealth*, 1985).

Other reviews and notes in: *La Vanguardia* 1982; *El Universal* 1982; *The New York Times* 1982; *Orbis* 1982; *Business Latin America* 1982; *Deutsche Stiftung für internationale Entwicklung*,

1982. A discussion of this book between Cuban economist Olga Ester Torres and Mesa-Lago was published in *El Trimestre Económico* 1987-1988.

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Breve Historia Económica de Cuba Socialista: Políticas, Resultados y Perspectivas* (Madrid: Alianza Editorial, 1994, 246 p.).

“This book is a meticulous study of Cuba’s economic stands and policies in 1959-1993: its accomplishments and failures, contradictions, external dependency and the role of international events; it also reviews the role of the U.S. embargo, the feasibility of the Cuban model after the fall of the socialist camp and possible paths to take in the future... It is relevant at this time, with the hope that the future system maintains the social gains with an economic organization according to the needs and realities of the country, combining growth and equity” (Consuelo Naranjo Osorio, Historian, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), *Revista de Indias*, 1996).

“This is a timely book in which objectivity and moderation predominate, thus favoring a serene and thoughtful analysis of the most polemic arguments, such as the role of the U.S embargo, the factors conditioning the successes and failures of the revolution, and the potential alternatives in the immediate future” (Doria González Fernández, *Revista de Historia Económica*, 1995).

“This is the best work on the Cuban economy...it ends with a statistical appendix selected and elaborated with extreme care” (Antonio Santamaría García, CSIC, *Anuario de Estudios Americanos*, 1996).

“Few have put the finger on the sore of the erratic behavior of Cuba’s economic policies implemented in contradictory fashion in the last 30 years. This is one of the principal accomplishments of Mesa-Lago’s solid work that places internal factors above external ones in a book profoundly documented and objective” (Carlos Malamud, Director of Studies, Instituto Universitario Ortega y Gasset, *ABC Literario*, 1995).

“In this book Mesa-Lago, the dean of Cuban economic studies in the United States, follows a notable systematization: selects eight key variables of economic policy (ownership, planning, stability and prices, development strategy, external sector, labor and employment, distribution and social services) as well as seven areas to measure results (growth, inflation, trade balance, external dependence, unemployment, equality and social indicators). These variables and areas are steadily analyzed in comparative fashion through seven stages in Cuban economy policy from 1959 to 1993. Through this methodology, the book offers a highly instructive comparative panorama of variations and contradictions in policies” (Bert Hofmann, Iberoamerican Institute of Hamburg, *Notas*, Frankfurt, 1996).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, editor and author of two chapters, *Cuba After the Cold War* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1994, 383 p.). Hardcover and paperback.

“This book is a gap-filling work which is unprecedented in the study of post-Cold War Cuba. It can be expected that its publication will undoubtedly push international Cuban studies forward for further development” (Mao Xianglin, Economist, Institute of Latin American Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, *Institute Journal*, 1994).

“This is a remarkable book in the field of Cuban studies... Seven of the essays ... are highly recommended to the readers in this field... Mesa-Lago deserves high praise not only for putting together this collection but also for his own contributions to the book” (Nicolás Sánchez, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 1994).

“Predictably, Carmelo Mesa-Lago, whose writings from Pittsburgh have so regularly punctuated the course of the Cuban Revolution, has now produced and contributed to an edition of well documented papers... This blend of scholarship is both necessary and fruitful” (Brian Pollitt, Professor of Economics and author of many essays on Cuba, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 1994).

“[This collection sets] a detailed stage for understanding the current parameters for change... Mesa-Lago offers two very useful essays on the effects of the Soviet (and Eastern European) disintegration on the Cuban economy... the detailed approach that he takes here makes these pieces essential reading for anyone hoping to understand the roots of the current Cuban crisis... [the book] ... will surely be used in many classes covering contemporary Cuba.” (Manuel Pastor, Professor of Economics, University of Southern California, *Latin American Research Review*, 1996).

“For a sober and detailed examination of the immediate background of the current situation in Cuba there is no better place to begin than with the Mesa-Lago volume. This outstanding contribution looks at the impact of the collapse of Cuba’s most important alliances and examines the reasons Cuba escaped the domino effect that led to the rapid demise of communism in Eastern Europe” (Kenneth Maxwell, Expert on Latin American affairs at the Council of Foreign Relations, *Foreign Affairs*, 1993).

“... a valuable anthology with a long potential shelf life... Mesa-Lago ably details the economic effects of the communist collapse... He also reviews the Cuban strategies for addressing the post-1989 economic crisis... Without profound and market-oriented reforms, Mesa-Lago predicts that they will fall considerably short of what the Cuban economy needs to stem the downturn and begin a recovery. [The book] finely documents the current Cuban crisis with historical and comparative sensibilities and, because of it, is a powerful deterrent against that lurking second ‘great divide’ in the field of Cuban studies” (Marifeli Pérez-Stable, Professor of Political Science, State University of New York, *Cuban Studies*, 1994).

“Mesa-Lago contributes to our attempts to understand the dramatic changes occurring in that country. ... the quality of his scholarship cannot be questioned... He provides immeasurable detail on the political, military, and economic effects on Cuba of the dramatic changes in the East. Mesa-Lago’s introduction and the nine essays are multi-disciplinary and comparative... [This book] is a valuable anthology with a long potential shelf life” (Gary Prevost, *The Journal of Politics*, 1995).

“The enigma of Cuba, one of the last remaining countries with a commitment to socialism, is the focus of this valuable collection. Editor Mesa-Lago... is with little doubt the leading expert on the Cuban economy. His two chapters on the adverse impact of the decline of the former USSR and Eastern Europe as Cuba’s economic allies and the possible alternatives facing the island are timely and, as always, competent and provocative... There can be no gainsaying the timeliness of this volume, and its thoughtful and serious contributions should add positively to the debate over how best to influence Cuba’s future” (*Choice*, 1994).

“Mesa-Lago, respected and prolific author on Cuba and Latin American development, commissioned ten insightful essays from top experts on Cuba, Eastern Europe and Latin

America... The chapters in this multi-disciplinary book are firmly grounded on extensive field research... No serious student of Cuban politics and the Latin American Left should miss this book” (Frank Kessler, *Inter-American Review of Bibliography*, 1993).

“The editor, a leading expert on Cuba, has brought together an excellent collection of lucid essays on one of the timeliest regional topics: what is likely to happen to Fidel Castro and Cuba... Highly recommended” (Roderic Camp, *Library Journal*, 1993).

Notes in: *Trialog* (Germany), *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Miami Today*.

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Are Economic Reforms Propelling Cuba to the Market?* (Coral Gables: University of Miami, 1994, 84 p.).

“This book provides an essential background briefing by one of the leading academic experts on Cuba, and goes a long way toward explaining the dilemmas facing the Cuban government as it struggles to contain the devastating economic impact caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union. Based on a careful assessment of the available statistical data, technical reports by Cuban and foreign experts, many interviews with Cubans on all sides of the political spectrum, and Mesa-Lago’s own formidable research over the years, this short book will be greatly appreciated for the richness, comprehensiveness, and confidence of its economic analysis” (Kenneth Maxwell, Council on Foreign Relations, *Foreign Affairs*, 1994).

“This is timely, moderate and well-documented contribution to the analysis and debate on Cuban economic reforms [of the mid-1990s]. The description of each policy is rich and the analysis rigorous, offering a thoughtful balance of its advantages and disadvantages. With his dominion of the literature and deep knowledge of the functioning of the economy and the decision making process in the Island, Mesa-Lago offers an incisive examination of the ongoing debate on the strategy to follow. The contribution of this small book is at the level of his longer and more specialized works; his clear, sober and systematic analysis provides an incisive route map to Cuba’s economic future” (Dr. Jorge Pérez-López, former President of ASCE and editor of *Cuba in Transition*, in *Cuban Studies*, 1995).

“[Mesa-Lago] does a particularly good job of stressing the contradictory nature of these reforms for the social fabric of revolutionary Cuba, analyzing the inevitable inequality that must result from dollarization, and the tension between growing private employment and state control of the economy... I concur with his conclusion: Castro lacks a blueprint, listening to different proposals and implementing those that appeal to him most.” (Carmen Diana Deere, Professor of Economics, University of Massachusetts and ex-President of LASA, *Comparative Economic Studies*, 1995).

A review in Chinese by Jiang Shixue, Under-Deputy of the Institute of Latin American Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (*World Economics and Politics*, 1995), argued that Cuba could learn much from China’s economic reforms, considered that not all the adverse effects in Cuba were due to said reforms, as the book suggested, but concluded that the reader could get considerable inspiration from it (letter to Mesa-Lago, Beijing, 1995).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Economía y Bienestar Social en Cuba a Comienzos del Siglo XXI* (Madrid: Editorial Colibrí, 2003, 210 p.). English edition, expanded and updated: Carmelo Mesa-Lago and Jorge Pérez-López, *Cuba’s Aborted Reform: Socioeconomic Effects*,

***International Comparisons and Transition Policies* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2005, 223 p.)**

Choice selected the English version as Outstanding Academic Title in 2006: “The best available introduction to the contemporary Cuban economy...and a useful reference volume for specialists... Essential” (January 2007).

“[To understand the future transition in Cuba] is fundamental to be realistic, be based on facts and forget rhetorical speeches. Is what has been doing for decades Carmelo Mesa-Lago, who in this book explains that the “anguished and difficult pursuit of objectivity” has brought him criticisms from both sides of the ideological spectrum, and yet they have not made a dent in his impressive bibliography that doesn’t hide the accomplishments of the revolution but that in general documents a rather poor portrait” [Miguel Villarejo, *La Gaceta de Fin de Semana*, 2004).

“Along a third of a century, Mesa-Lago’s oeuvre has been an excellent guide to understand the Cuban economy. His diagnosis is even more valid because [he] never goes beyond the reasonable in his critical analysis of the system and even tries to get into the official economic discourse, contributing his knowledge to make possible the adoption of rational decisions ... Within the difficulties involved in the Cuban figures, he has attempted to discern which are reliable to evaluate the economy as a whole and in its principal sectors [and with] a rigorous economic analysis, offers elements to understand what has happened in the last 15 years” (Antonio Elorza, Historian and Professor of Political Science, Universidad Complutense, *Encuentro*, Madrid, 2004-2005).

“Mesa-Lago has profound knowledge of Cuba’s economic performance in the second half of the 20th century as proven by his previous books. [In this one] he focuses on the problems encountered in the early years of the 21st century... The principal conclusion is that only with a series of needed reforms, Cuba would be able to reach certain quotas of social welfare in the future...and obstinacy could end the accomplishments of 45 years of revolution” (Carlos Malamud, Real Instituto Elcano de Estudios Internacionales, *El País*, 2004).

“Mesa-Lago asserts that the reforms introduced since 1993 are insufficient to correct the structural problems of the Cuban economy... They should be deepened and, later moved towards a stronger transition ...that includes a more progressive tax system, the elimination of the current indiscriminate fiscal subsidies and external aid in exchange for the reforms” (Justo Barranco, *La Vanguardia*, 2004).

“This is another interesting volume by Mesa-Lago, pioneer of studying and monitoring Cuban economic performance after the Revolution... The first chapter is a brilliant overview of the economic and social policies of Castro’s Cuba... Mesa-Lago’s ... brings the views of Cuban economists into this debate...He suggests a range of reforms, from changes in the fiscal system to changes of the pension system. Chapter 4 is ... a meticulous and detailed account of the fate of Cuba’s Human Development Index in the corridors of the UNDP, its ups and downs on the Index ladder...[and he] has done an admirable job of trying to find out how all those successive mishaps came about. Chapter 5 compares the Cuban model in the light of other models in Latin America... Those interested in comparative economics should definitely benefit from reading this thoughtful piece, which is based on meticulous and well research work... It is well written, exemplary well documented and should be obligatory reading for scholars interested in what happened to the Cuban model, and what options lie ahead” (Claes Brundenius, Economist at the International Organization for Knowledge Economy and Enterprise Development, Sweden, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 2005)

“Informative. Comprehensive. Systematically comparative. Mesa-Lago and Perez-Lopez bring their years of path-breaking excellent research on the Cuban economy to describe how Cuba responded to the crisis... They tackle complicated issues of statistical validity and reliability. Above all, they provide a sure and clear guidance to understanding Cuba’s economy today” (Jorge I. Domínguez, Clarence Dillon Professor of International Affairs, Harvard University, 2006).

“This book...provides us with the best collection of scenarios of what might happen that has been produced of late. [The authors] have a long trajectory of monitoring and analysis of the Cuban economy...[Their approach on ideological and pragmatist cycles] makes a lot of sense for analyzing the policies and performance of the Cuban economy” (Claes Brundenius, Professor of Economics, Lund University, Sweden, *Journal of Latin American Studies*, 2006).

[The authors] have achieved the rarest of feats: they have given us a dispassionate, data-rich, comparative, provocative, and policy-oriented analysis of Cuba’s aborted economic reforms of the last decade” (Ted Henken, Associate Professor, Baruch College, CUNY, 2005).

“The authors prove, with solid evidence, that Cuban official statistics, as well as the United Nations Human Development Index, are less credible than most might assume. I recommend this book to all who have interests, not only on the Cuban economy, but also on economic development and social welfare in general, as well as on the transition from socialist systems to the market” (Kanao Yamaoka, Institute of Development Studies, Tokyo, 2005).

“The comprehensiveness and level of detail in their discussion is so impressive that [it] should be required reading in all courses on the Cuban economy, and at least background reading in courses with a broader perspective. [In] ‘Cuba and the Human Development Index’ the authors apply a careful, systematic and well documented approach to the analysis of the data underlying these [HDI] numbers. I doubt most users of the HDI are aware of the potential differences due to the change in methodology [documented by the authors]... This book is an outstanding analysis of the economic situation in Cuba during the 1989-2004 period. There is no better single reference work on this subject anywhere” (Roger R. Betancourt, Professor of Economics University of Maryland, *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 2007).

“[The authors] lay out their analysis of the woes ailing the Cuban economy.... present an extremely detailed argument that Cuba has failed to fully recover from the economic crisis that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union and the loss of the vital Soviet subsidies... [This] book reflects efforts to examine the economic and social underpinnings of Cuba today and the linkages between the Cuban economy and polity” (Daniel P. Ericsson, Inter-American Dialogue, 2007)

Newspapers reviews in: *El País* (Madrid), *La Vanguardia* (Barcelona), *La Gaceta de Fin de Semana* (Madrid), *Encuentro en la Red* (Madrid), *El Nuevo Herald* (Miami).

Carmelo Mesa-Lago, *Cuba en la Era de Raúl Castro: Reformas Económico-sociales y sus Efectos* (Madrid: Editorial Colibrí, 2012, 336p.). **English edition updated: Carmelo Mesa-Lago and Jorge Pérez-López, *Cuba Under Raul Castro: Assessing the Reforms*** (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2013, 296p.).

Spanish version:

“Excellent book! The first in-depth study of the reforms being undertaken in Cuba. Rigorously worked, lucidly structured, timely, challenging and balanced, it helps us to transform our understanding of the Cuban reality. It should be required reading for all those committed to the task of creating a better future for Cuba” (Pedro Monreal, Cuban economist, Program Specialist for the Social Sciences, UNESCO, Paris, 2012).

“Since the beginning of the Cuban reforms in 2008, the world expected a concrete and objective analysis of their scope and depth. We have it now thanks to this book that situates those changes in a long-term context that emphasizes the structural problems faced by the reforms. Its analysis is excellent and extremely useful for all those interested in Cuba” (Victor Bulmer-Thomas, Institute of the Americas, University College, London, 2012).

“This book is serious, profound, conscious and realistic, despite being controversial and in some parts differing from my positions. It follows the Cuban economy for more than 50 years, focusing in the last six, with wisdom, and offers conclusions that lead us to reflection of our reality. Its reading is indispensable” (Omar Everleny Perez Villanueva, Director of the Center for the Study of the Cuban Economy, University of Havana, 2012).

“Finally an interpretation of the complex processes of Cuban reforms that appears like it has been written here, documented, unbiased, analytical” (Rafael Hernández, Political Scientist, Director of the social science journal *Temas*, Havana, 2012).

“Everything you wanted to know about Cuba, but didn't know where to find it. This book gives us an extremely sharp vision and a very complete analysis of the Cuban revolution economic, social and political history, particularly of the recent reforms. It must be read by anyone who wants to understand the current reality of Cuba and the crossroads that faces after more than half a century of revolution” (Gabriel Tortella, Professor Emeritus of Economic History, University of Alcalá de Henares, Spain, Prize King Juan Carlos in Economics, 2012).

“The topic of the Cuban economy is plagued by dogmas. This book, focused on the reforms initiated in 2007, is particularly timely and enlightening: examines all available evidence, provides a fair and balanced interpretation of the strengths and weaknesses of the state-dominated economy, and concludes with sober and well-founded suggestions” (Laurence Whitehead, Senior Researcher on Economics, Neuffield College, Oxford University, 2012).

“A book of great interest to economists in general and for all of those that want to know better and in an objective manner about the current situation of Cuba's economy. It is based on copious references, official data, estimates, analysis of economists inside and outside of the island, and the criteria of the author founded on a vast work and experience in the subjects covered” (Pavel Vidal Alejandro, Cuban economist, Pontifical University of Cali, Colombia, 2012).

“A master class of economic and social history of Cuba in 1959-2012, focused on the last six years, this book shows that history serves to understand the past and the present, and helps to design a better future. A work of reference for social scientists and of great benefit to anyone interested in Cuba” (Consuelo Naranjo Orovio, Director Institute of History, Higher Council of Scientific Studies, Madrid, 2012).

“With thoroughness and reliability, this book is a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the structural reforms promoted by Raul Castro and their multiple economic and social consequences, an x-ray of today's Cuban society. It is a required reading for those who want to understand

where Cuba is moving, a real *tour-de-force*” (Alejandro de la Fuente, Chair Latin American History, Harvard University, 2012).

“The best study on Cuba’s economy and social welfare in the last 20 years, the most complete and objective” (Kanako Yamaoka, Senior Researcher, Institute of Developing Economies, Tokyo, 2012).

“A rigorous analysis essential to understand the fascinating and dramatic moment that Cuba is going through” (Manuel Alcántara Sáez, Professor of Political Science, University of Salamanca, 2012).

"The works of Mesa-Lago [in the controversial field of socialist Cuba] are a rare exception; they evoke... a broad respect won in five decades of dedication to the analysis of processes occurring on the island since 1959, without paying more toll than the evidence. For his rigor and professional honesty they have elevated the academic level of the research and the debate. This book is the latest piece of a long and rich life oeuvre ... a profuse and detailed analysis... brilliant on many occasions... of a monumental set of systematized data... with comparative methods. A magnificent and rigorous exercise of intellectual analysis of the reforms and problems of Cuba since Raúl Castro took power... as well as the policies to solve them" (Antonio Santamaría García, Senior Research, Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, *Anuario de Estudios Latinoamericanos*, Sevilla, 2013).

“Among the scholars who have analyzed the economic and social issues of the Cuban revolution with greater assiduity and academic rigor is Carmelo Mesa-Lago, author of dozens of books and hundreds of articles on Cuba [who] has systematically followed Cuban performance in the last 45 years [with] interesting and controversial valuations of our reality, in what has undoubtedly been a spur for economic scholars in our country. True to the spirit of critical inquiry that characterized his work [this] book deals with a topic of great importance and timing... the economic reforms in Cuba. [His] task is enormous in trying to summarize the evolution of the Cuban economy for more than 50 years" (José Luis Rodríguez, Cuba’s former Minister of Economics and Planning and Advisor of the Center for Research on the World Economy, *Revista Temas*, Havana, 2013)

“Mesa-Lago—the principal authority in the field of the Cuban economy since 1959—has a long career during which he has produced the most exhaustive, documented and objective studies on that subject, and systematically updated them. This book is an excellent culmination of his lucid and revealing work. It is supported by the laborious job of elaboration and interpretation of indicators, built in a prodigious manner from many diverse sources... Written in a clear and simple language, but with scientific rigor, the book can be read both by academics and specialists that search for hard and reliable data, as well as the general public interested in knowing the current Cuban reality and future perspectives” (Velia Cecilia Bobes, Research Professor at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, *Perfiles Latinoamericanos*, Mexico, 2013).

“Mesa-Lago, author of this excellent book, is one of the outstanding scholars in Latin America in the study of the regional economy, social security systems and the Cuban economy, [based] on his deep knowledge of the laws of economics and its pulse of social scientist with central concerns on the social dynamics and their historical development... Before addressing the core of the book he masterfully leads the reader in the keys to the economic and social evolution of the island in 1959-2012” (Manuel Alcántara Saez, Professor of Political Science, Universidad de Salamanca, *América Latina Hoy*, 2013).

“This exceptional book has among many merits, the development of a balanced analysis of the Cuban economy, the professional use of numerous sources and data with diverse origin, and the provision of opinions and rigorous contributions from generations of social scientists both in the Island and abroad ... Strongly recommended” (Carlos A. Romero, Professor of Political Science, Universidad Central de Venezuela, *Revista de la Facultad de Derecho*, UCV, Caracas, 2013).

"This book by economist and worldwide specialist in social policy Carmelo Mesa-Lago, is of those few works that, since its inception, becomes a classic, in this case on Cuba socio-economic reality and its reforms, with a set of relevant features: sophisticated economic analysis... sensitivity to social indicators... masterful combination of rigor and professional honesty, [and] objective and balanced position. A true x-ray of Cuban economy [and] society throughout 53 years" (Armando Chaguaceda, Member of Observatorio Social de América Latina, *Revista de la Universidad Veracruzana*, 2013).

“Mesa-Lago has been for more than half a century, the most tenacious and objective researcher on the Cuban economy... His most recent book enjoys well-deserved respect within the island, especially among the younger generation and it is equally praised by U.S. scholars... He is a tireless worker, an integral intellectual, and a modest human being... His new book is a profound contribution to know and understand the Cuba of the last 50 years (Uva de Aragón, Under Director of the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University, *Diario de las Américas*, Miami, 2013).

“A colossal work ... the most comprehensive and systematic analysis that I have seen on the process of reforms that has begun in Cuba... [For me] Mesa-Lago was a giant icon -apparently unreachable- of Cuban culture outside the island. I have learned to know that, behind the great intellectual, there is a human being with a great heart, unwavering passion and love for Cuba, meticulous as an Englishman, with incisive foresight. He is admired and loved by many young people who follow his work from the island” (Lenier González Mederos, co-editor *Espacio Laical*, Havana, 2013).

“This book guarantees objectivity, balance and equilibrium. Carmelo’s oeuvre is characterized by its vastness; his book was not written in a few months but in years of systematic work [based] in the analysis of official data and international estimates, what is said by authors inside and outside the Island, all in a dignified language. The book reads well and moves the reader to reflexion” (Pavel Vidal, Cuban noted economist). “Carmelo never stops in the diagnosis; his intellectual responsibility makes him to suggest policy recommendations founded in his analysis” (Mauricio De Miranda, Professor of economics Universidad Pontificia of Cali). Comments at the presentation of the book in Havana, 2014).

English version:

“Distinguished economists and pioneering scholars Mesa-Lago and Pérez-López have written the most wide-ranging, provocative, deeply researched and complete discussion of the nature, political underpinnings and impact of Raúl Castro's economic reforms available today... eminently accessible to a broad, interdisciplinary audience... The book analyzes Cuba's realities by excavating statistical data that is extremely difficult to obtain [and] provides a balanced and objective analysis, free of the usual political agendas. For historians like myself, little-reported examples [given by the authors], together with this book's extraordinary range of macro-level analyses, serve as an essential catalyst for new lines of investigation and theoretical debate. Boldly, elegantly and coolly written, [it] reveals the international context and inner workings of

Cuban economic reality with unparalleled depth and exquisite precision” (Lillian Guerra, Professor of Caribbean History University of Florida-Gainesville, *Cuban Studies*, 2013).

“[This book] is today the definitive general survey, analysis and evaluation of Cuba’s economic and social policies and its development experience during the Raúl’s Presidency. It is constructed on a solid and broad foundation of statistical information and a deep knowledge of the meaning and limitations of that information [and] utilizes virtually all possible source materials from inside as well as outside the island. The study is comprehensive in scope, immensely detailed in its analysis, yet concise and focused. It constitutes the best starting point for any observer, analyst, researcher or scholar trying to understand and evaluate Cuba’s economic experience during the Raúl’s era” (Archibald Ritter, Professor of Economics, Carleton University, *Latin American Research Review*, 2014).

Others in: *ABC, El País* y Televisión Española (TVE) (Madrid), *La Vanguardia* (Barcelona), *Deutsche Welle* (Bonn), *France International Radio*, *Netherlands Radio*, *Infolatam* (Canadá), *Ciencias Sociales Online* and *Radio Internacional de China* (Beijing), *AFP*, *El Universal* (Caracas), *Cuba News*, *Miami Herald*, and *Canal 41 America TV* (Miami).

***Voces del Cambio en el Emergente Sector No Estatal en Cuba* (with R. Veiga, L. González, S. Vera and A. Pérez-Liñán (La Habana, Cuba Posible, 2016, 2 Vols., 156 pp). Spain edition: *Voces de Cambio en el Sector no Estatal Cubano* (Madrid: Editorial Iberoamericana Vervuert, 2016, 212 pp). English edition *Voices of Change in Cuba* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, forthcoming 2018).**

“This book is the most comprehensive and well thought-out account of Cuba’s new private sector. It presents a wealth of information that had never before been compiled so systematically” (Jorge I. Domínguez, Professor of Government, Harvard University, 2016).

“A unique treasure. A triumph of scholarship in a country where fieldwork is notoriously difficult to carry out” (Mitchell A. Seligson, Founder of Latin American Public Opinion Project, Vanderbilt University, 2016).

“This book should be read carefully because is of great utility for those interested in Cuba’s non-state sector. It will be required reading for our society, and hopefully motivates researchers to engage in similar projects” (Omar Everlenny Pérez Villanueva, former Director Center for the Study of Cuban Economy, University of Havana, coeditor of *Miradas a la Economía Cubana: Análisis del Sector no Estatal*, 2016).

"A welcome addition to the literature on the Cuban socialist economy of today. The 80 intensive interviews represent a unique accomplishment, given the continuing restrictions to economic freedom" (Alejandro Portes, former President American Sociological Association, 2016).

“A model of innovative academic collaboration between US and Cuban-based scholars, this book is both quantitatively rigorous and qualitatively path breaking. An essential, timely resource for Cuban policymakers and all those interested in Cuba" (Archibald Ritter, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Carleton University Canada, and Ted Henken, Associate Professor of Sociology, Baruch College; co-authors of *Entrepreneurial Cuba*, 2016).

“For its scholarly rigor, immense readability and policy-making applications, this is a pioneering volume. It takes a ‘ground-up’ approach relying on interviews with Cubans that speak for themselves” (Lillian Guerra, Waldo Neikirk Professor of Cuban and Caribbean History, University of Florida, 2016).

“The authors capture the interest of the reader through a careful analysis and the testimonies of the protagonists, providing an accurate view of the daily problems of the Cuban society... one of the most significant contributions to the economic and social history of that nation” (Consuelo Naranjo Orovio, Professor and Director Institute of History, Spain’s Higher Council of Scientific Research, 2016).

“The most authoritative, complete and fact-based analysis of Cuba's nascent private sector. A required reading for those interested in the progress and challenges of Cuba's reform process” (Jorge Pérez-López, former Economist, U.S. Department of Labor, author of *Cuba's Second Economy*, 2016).

“A totally original approach to Cuba’s economy and society. A pioneer book... supported by an excellent field work and reliable statistics and information, a reference volume that will be key to understand the future of Cuba and the evolution of its reforms” (Carlos Malamud, Principal Researcher on Latin America, Royal Institute Elcano of International Studies, Madrid, 2016).

“This excellent book arrives in a crucial moment. It shows new evidence and a variety of experiences among the micro-entrepreneurs of the new economy. ¡A great accomplishment!” (Pavel Vidal Alejandro, Professor of Economics, Universidad Pontificia Javeriana, Colombia, 2016).

“This book is of indisputably importance to understand today Cuba because it examines the emergent non-state economic sector and the obstacles that the state erects to its expansion. It synthesizes the difficult transit of a centrally planned economy to one of socialist market in the 21st century” (Rafael Rojas, History Department, CIDE, Mexico City, 2016).

“This book, in a sharp and meticulous manner, significantly advances our knowledge with rigor and depth. It reveals what the non-economic sector thinks for the country’s future, and provides evidence of the opening happening in Cuba’s academic world towards more economic freedom” (Prof. Manuel Alcántara, Director de FLACSO, Universidad de Salamanca, Spain, 2016).

“Few analysts like Mesa-Lago, profoundly knowledgeable of Cuba’s economy and society, are in the position to immerse in Cuba’s new reality and interpret it, with empathy and rigor. This book, well-documented and vibrant, is indispensable to become acquainted with the Cuba emerging from a process of change” (José Antonio Alonso, Professor of Applied Economics Universidad Complutense Spain, 2016).

“This timely book casts light on one of the most important yet so far little analyzed effects of Raul Castro’s economic reforms. It brings together a wealth of detail on the growth of Cuba’s non-state sector, enriched by the voices of Cubans working in this emerging economy. A most welcome contribution to the scholarship on contemporary Cuba” (Maxine Molyneux, Professor of Sociology, University College London, 2016).

“Carmelo Mesa-Lago represents, in his magna oeuvre and impeccable trajectory, Cuba’s national conscience. In this book, he and his colleagues document the current Cuba, the one that could have been, and still may become” (Enrique Krauze, Editor of *Letras Libres*, Mexico City, 2016).