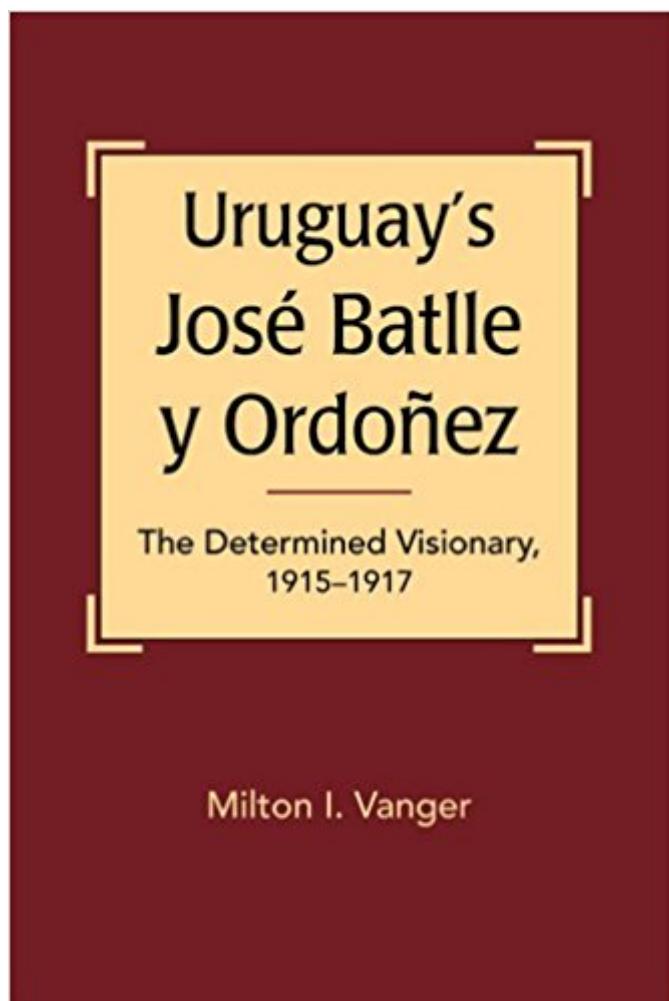


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Uruguay's Jose Batlle Y Ordonez: The Determined Visionary, 1915-1917



Synopsis

If one died and could not reach heaven, went the saying in Latin America during the presidency of Jose Batlle y Ordonez, one might get at least as far as Batlle's Uruguay. Jose Batlle was committed to a vision of advanced democracy that included a plural executive (the Colegiado), state-run enterprises, an eight-hour-maximum workday, women's rights, and the abolition of the death penalty. In 1915-1917, having completed his second term, he was battling on toward a revision of the Uruguayan constitution that he hoped would embody that vision. Batlle's ideas proved to be too much for voters to accept. Nevertheless, he skillfully rescued part of his program and laid the groundwork for future reforms. As masterfully related in this concluding volume of Milton Vanger's trilogy, the story of Batlle and this short episode in Uruguay's history is significant far beyond its time. Even today, the president and his legacy loom over current politics in the country much as FDR and the New Deal Coalition do in the United States. Arguably, no other single topic is more important in Uruguay's political history. This is the final volume in Vanger's masterful trilogy on Jose Batlle y Ordonez and what is arguably the most important period in Uruguay's political history.

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Customer Reviews

"The masterful culmination of a lifetime's labor.... This is one of the most balanced and thorough studies of any Latin American president's political career written in any language." - John Chasteen, University of North Carolina"

Milton I. Vanger is professor emeritus of history at Brandeis University. The preeminent scholar of Jose Batlle y Ordóñez, he is author of Jose Batlle y Ordóñez of Uruguay: The Creator of His Times, 1902-1907 and The Model Country: Jose Batlle y Ordóñez of Uruguay, 1907-1915.

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