Finding Aid for


Summary Information
Creator: Missionary Research Library
Title: Latin American Churches’ Response to Social Movements Records
Dates: 1962 – 1973
Abstract: These papers describe the Latin American churches’ response to the social movements that emerged during the years 1962-1973. Collection contains reports, pamphlets, essays, press statements, quarterly reports and a NACL study.
Size: 2 boxes, 1.00 linear ft.
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu
**Administrative Information**

Provenance: Originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library, under the direction of Charles H. Fahs, who was research assistant to John R. Mott and curator of the Missionary Research Library from its foundation in 1914 until 1948, these records were moved with the MRL to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. In 1976 the records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives with the closure of the MRL. In 2014, the collection was updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.

Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible. Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.

Access restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers.

Preferred Citation: Item description, MRL 9: Latin American Churches' Response to Social Movements Records, 1962-1973, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

**History**

The collection was created by the Missionary Research Library, who grouped similar material together. The histories of each individual section can be found throughout the scope and content note.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The papers from this collection are divided into five main sections. Each section provides a distinct perspective on the various Latin American churches’ response to the rise of revolutionary movements during the years 1962-1973.

1. **Latin American Churches and Social Movements, 1962-1969**

These papers describe various Latin American churches’ response to the movements for social change taking place during the years 1962-1969. Papers like Emilio Castro’s “Protestants in the Latin American Revolution” and Christian d’Epinay’s “Protestant churches and the Latin American Revolution” are especially helpful in providing information on Latin American Protestant churches’ role during this period.¹

2. **North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), 1967-1973**

The North American Congress on Latin America is an organization which continues to exist. Founded in November 1966, the organization sought to “examine and debate the official and mainstream coverage of the Johnson Administration’s April 1965 invasion of the Dominican

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Republic.” The NACLA currently provides “policy makers, analysts, academics, organizers, journalists and religious and community groups with information on U.S.-Latin American relations on a range of political, social and economic issues in the Americas.” The papers in this collection are drawn from the years 1967-1973. Various projects are recorded here though special attention should go to the development of NACLA’s “Yanqui Dollar” study. Shown here in its proposed, developmental, and final state, the Yanqui Dollar Study sought to examine U.S. corporate investment in Latin America. Later newsletters and news packets would emphasize how U.S. private investments had led to Latin America’s state of underdevelopment.

These papers represent U.S. and Latin American churches’ response to the movements for social change taking place in 1965-1970 through the lens of various organizations’ documents. The two church organizations described below were just two of many in Latin America that sought to think critically about the revolutionary movements that had arisen and the state of economic dependency that had made such movements possible.

3a. Iglesia y Sociedad en América Latina (ISAL)
Originating with the Latin American Protestant youth movement of the 1940’s-50’s, ISAL first appeared as a periodical bulletin in 1959 in the city of Montevideo, Uruguay. Within years, this publication would prove to be the basis for a burgeoning movement among Latin American Protestants. Organizing its first consultation in Lima, Peru in 1961, this meeting addressed “The Social Responsibility of the Protestant Church in the Face of Rapid Social Change.” Two years later in Rio de Janeiro, ISAL held its first consultation on Service and Social Action. In a rough history of ISAL published in 1967 (in this collection), members describe themselves as seeking “to awaken Protestant conscience to social responsibility... through the promotion of interest in serious study of the message of the Bible, theological reflection, and an objective analysis of the social situation.” This same document concludes by expressing a strong desire to become a social movement. The ISAL documents cover the period 1967-1973.

3b. Latin American Division of the National Council of Churches (LAD of NCC)
The National Council of Churches was founded in 1950 and describes itself as the leading force for ecumenical cooperation in the United States. During the 1960’s and 70’s, the NCC organized a Latin American Division (LAD) under the Division of Overseas Ministries. The few documents relating to this group indicate that its members intended to continue through the 1970’s and that it supported groups like ISAL among others.

These papers represent U.S. criticism of American foreign policy as regards Latin America. Articles entitled “Can Pax Americana Succeed?” and “Training, Equipping the Latin American Military,” reveal the concerns which U.S. church organizations sought to address.
These folders are comprised of four educational packets produced by various church organizations during the years 1967-1972. These packets were especially intended for use by children and young adults in Sunday school. They represent popular efforts to educate the U.S. public on the poor-living conditions of people in Latin America and to raise awareness of how U.S. foreign policy had caused extreme poverty in “developing” nations.

Processing
When the Burke Library acquired these papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order imposed by the Mission Research Library on the contents. Folded materials were flattened. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes. In 2014, the collection was updated as part of the Henry Luce Foundation grant.

Further Sources
The Burke Library offers other collections related to the topics and geographic locations covered in this collection. For more information, please see the Burke Library Archives website.
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| 1   | 1      | Latin American Church and Social Movements, 1962-1969  
| 1   | 2      | Articles and clippings, [196?] – 1967:  
Center for Cuban Studies pamphlet, [196?]  
Pai nosso que estás nos céus. *Bíblia hoje*, v.1  
*Educación para una nueva sociedad en América Latina*, pamphlet; "A parábola dos trabalhadores na vinha" *Bíblia hoje*, v.10  
Arias, Rev. Mortimer. *An Easter Manifesto to the Bolivian Nation*, Methodist Church, 1967 |
| 1   | 3      | Essays and article, 1968:  
Castro, Emilio. *Protestants in the Latin American Revolution*  
Christian Lalive d’Epinay *Protestant churches and the Latin American revolution*, 1968  
| 1   | 4      | Third World Reader Service, 1970-71: Advertisements from Third World Awareness/Advocacy team, [1971]  
Denis Goulet, *The United States, a case of anti-development*  
Third World Reader Service reprint from *Motive*, Jan 1970. |
| 1   | 5      | North American Congress on Latin America, 1967-1973 (NACLA)  
Draft Proposal for Research and Action, Steve Weissman, Mar 1967  
Press Statement, 1969  
Proposal for a study of U.S. private investment in Latin America. |
| 1   | 6      | Confidential report from NACLA staff, April 20, 1967  
NACLA report, Sept 1968. |
| 1   | 7      | Yanqui Dollar: a study of U.S. investment in Latin America: Outline for study and questions about corporations  
Project mailing #1. Recent Developments. April 1972  
| 1   | 8      | *The Contribution of U.S. private investment to underdevelopment in Latin America*, pamphlet providing background material to forthcoming study. |
| 1   | 9      | Latin American Packet 4, 10/9/70, Packet 6, 11/9/70  
| 1   | 10     | Research methodology guides, 1970-1971  
Quarterly report, financial statement, July 1-Dec 31, 1970  
| 1   | 11     | Packet Number 7, 11/26/1970; Packet 8, 8/10/1972  
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| 1   | 17     | **Latin American Organizations, 1965-1970: ISAL, LAD of NCC**  
| 1   | 18     | Illusion and Reality in Inter-American Relations, tps.  
Box Folder Contents


Hazelton, John S. “Changing Latin America-Church Labor Letter” No. 109, May 1967;
“Justice and International Development.” *Concern*, March 1, 1967;
“A few recommendations for reading in the area of international economic development.” University Christian Movement, [1967];
Structures of Christian presence: a proposal for study. tps, 1966;
Loyo, Gilberto. “Latinoamérica y la explosión demográfica,” *Revista de Economía*, Abril de 1967, 40 (4);

2 3 Abbot, John W. “U.S. Frame of Mind and World Mission Service”
Typescript report for the Promotion Staff Council of the Division of Overseas Ministries, 1967;

2 4 Fletcher, Verne H. “Collective dimensions in interracial behavior,” reprint from *The City Church*;
Black, Donald. Implications for structure and program of contemporary discussion on the nature of evangelism. April 29-30, 1966;

2 5 Black, Donald. “Focus on the White Liberal,” Pamphlet for the General Dept. of Mission Strategy and Evangelism, 1967;
Goulet, Denis A. “Can there be social change with no violence?”
Interview, *World Campus Newspaper*, Notre Dame University: Nov. 1967;
Hero, Alfred O. American protestants and world affairs, [1966];

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Vallier, Ivan. “Challenge to Catholicism in Latin America,” Transaction magazine, Washington University, St. Louis, Miss. 1967;  
| 2   | 7-10   | **U.S. Educational Materials on Latin America, 1967-1972**  