

led by Fidel Castro. This movement ultimately triumphed as the armed forces were crushed, and Batista fled into exile on January 1, 1959.

The government of Fidel Castro is broadly based and has as its keynote a sweeping program of political reform, economic nationalism, and social revolution. It is still too early to tell whether the movement will be successful or be perverted either by the inexperience and overambitiousness of Fidel Castro or by the intrigues of the Communists.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic holds the dubious distinction of having the most primitive political structure in all Latin America. For the past 29 years this unfortunate Republic has been under the tyrannical thumb of Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo. He conducts the most brutal and predatory dictatorship in Latin America today. The nation is run as his personal family estate. There has been no significant political change in the Dominican Republic since Trujillo assumed power in 1930.

ECUADOR

The emergence of a more broadly based government in Ecuador can be traced to the May 1944 revolution, in which young army officers toppled Arroyo del Río's old-order regime and invited José María Velasco Ibarra, presumably the popular choice, to take over the presidency. What purported to be a popular reform administration, however, was soon perverted by the demagoguery and ineptness of Velasco. Late in 1947 the armed forces decided to save the country from his increasingly irresponsible rule. Thereupon a national unity coalition elected the moderate Galo Plaza Lasso.

President Plaza (1948-52) brought political stability and fiscal responsibility to the nation but did little to alleviate the suffering or improve the miserable lot of the lower income groups. The popular discontent was successfully exploited by Velasco, who was reelected president in 1952.

Velasco's attempts to launch a reform program designed to benefit the downtrodden were effectively frustrated by Congress and by the armed forces, which refused to permit an unconstitutional resolution of the nation's social problem. Since 1956, the Conservative Party, headed by President Camilo Ponce, has been in power. It has been reasonably successful in maintaining political order by constitutional means, has generally followed responsible fiscal policies, and has promoted development of the nation's economy along free-enterprise lines.

EL SALVADOR

El Salvador's young-officer-led popular revolution, following the familiar post-World War II pattern in Latin America, came in December 1948. It nearly occurred 4 years earlier when the cumulative pressure of population upon limited rural resources, the rise of small urban labor and middle-class commercial and professional groups, and the defeat and discrediting of military dictatorships elsewhere in World War II threatened the traditionalist regime of General Maximiliano Martínez. The military uprising which deposed him in 1944