nature of Puritanism that is suggested in but not limited to works
on English Puritanism by Patrick Collinson and Petr Lake, and
on American Puritanism by Michael Winship. And he does not
look at the works on witchcraft by Puritan writers such as William
Perkins and John Winthrop’s kinsman John Cotta. His analysis
would be enhanced by more exploration of what such writers
meant by possession and affliction, a critical difference in how
the events of 1692 unfolded. This being said, an open-minded
reevaluation of the role of religion would be welcome.

This is a book that will stir controversy. But it is also a book
that will be a useful tool in introducing students to how history is
studied and written.

Millersville University of Pennsylvania  Francis J. Bremer

and the Making of the Modern World. New York: W.W.

Joshua Freeman’s Behemoth is an insightful introductory
text for anyone interested in learning more about what he calls
“industrial gigantism” and the influence of large factories across
the globe since the Industrial Revolution. It is a surprisingly simple
summation of 300 years of history spanning three continents that
leaves the reader amazed at the enormity of the size and scope of
these institutions. From the mills in eighteenth-century England
up through the modern giants in Asia, Freeman spends 300
pages illuminating the connection between these wonders and
the human spirit, making it clear that what began as an enlarging
force now sadly appears to exist only in a diminishing capacity. In
this regard, Freeman’s book reads almost like a tragedy of human
ingenuity, an elegy for a once-great idea now turned on its head
without hope for renewal. As he poignantly states in one of the
final chapters, “The giant factory no longer represents a vision of
a new and different world a-coming, of a utopian future or a new kind of nightmare existence…The future has already arrived, and we seem to be stuck with it” (313).

*Behemoth* tells the story of giant industrial factories and the towns that emerged with them such as Lowell, Magnitorgorsk, and Foxconn, among a number of others. It is rich in primary source research which provides the reader many opportunities for extended understanding through a simple review of the reference pages. It is and should be read only as a survey of the topic rather than an insightful inquiry about the individuals whose lives came to be dominated by these industrial giants. If one is looking for stories of factory workers and their personal struggles and stories, this is not the book to read. If rather one is interested in the larger picture of how industrial gigantism has helped shape the world in which we live today, particularly as a social force, this is the book. It is, according to the author, “a study of how and why giant factories became carriers of dreams and nightmare associated with industrialization and social change” (xiv). In this regard, it fulfills its aim well.

For history teachers looking to enhance their general knowledge and understanding of industrialism in the United States, the book is valuable and should definitely be considered. For those looking for a historical interpretation to bring into their classroom, it has many excerpts that would enhance lessons on the subject of industrialization. Passages such as the following can be used to help students think more critically about mechanization and the beginnings of industrialism in America:

“The concentration of mechanical marvels and industrial bounty measured how much views of national greatness and progress had changed during the half century since the Lowell mills opened. With little dissent, Americans had come to see machines and mechanical production as central to the meaning of national experience, as integral to modernity” (82).
Although such general assertions are common throughout the book and can easily accompany multiple choice questions or essay prompts, it is in some of the side stories about historical figures not often taught about that history teachers might find tasty additions to their curriculum. One in particular is Margaret Bourke-White, a photographer who, according to Freeman, “did more than any other to disseminate images of giant industry” (149). Bourke-White was one among many visual artists whose work helped shape public perceptions of global industrialism in the twentieth century. Her story alone is well worth reading the book as she is rarely if ever mentioned in a high school history text. *Behemoth* is a simple yet informative work that should easily make its way into any U.S. history teacher’s library.


Matthew Delmont’s *Why Busing Failed* corrects the common narratives about the failure to desegregate northern schools in the 1970s. Conventional histories present it as a case study in the limitations of educational and governmental reform, but Delmont marshals the cultural and historical context of desegregation to make the case that this narrative of failure is a false one that excuses complacency and discarding the goal of educational equity. Delmont’s claims hinge on dispelling three myths clouding the memory of busing: First, the crisis was about busing. Second, the North was innocent of segregation. Third, news media was a civil rights ally. In exposing these myths, Delmont argues this is not a historical failure of policy, but of will. The busing crisis teaches us little about education reform, but illuminates much