

## BOOK REVIEWS

J.H. Plumb, Frederic A. Youngs, Jr., Henry L. Snyder, E.A. Reitan, and David M. Fahey. The English Heritage. St. Louis: Forum Press, 1978. Pp. 419. Paper, \$9.95.

This fine survey may help to end the bear market in British history on this side of the Atlantic, which has seen ominously declining enrollments in college level courses and the phasing out of some. In his introduction J.H. Plumb, dean of Britain's literary historians, eloquently evokes his country's cultural heritage to North America. From there an able committee of American specialists takes over, guiding the student from Beowulf to the Beatles in seventeen tightly constructed chapters.

The authors note in their preface that this brief text is meant to be less than half the reading for a year's course, and to provide a basic chronological framework into which may be fitted lectures, collateral readings, audio-visual media, or whatever resources an instructor wants to employ. A good index and useful appendices and reading lists enable students to use the book conveniently for factual or bibliographical reference.

The book is smoothly written throughout. Descriptions are terse, explanations lucid. Chapters are broken into short, coherent sections on single topics, facilitating study and testing. The narrative, expository text conveys essential facts and generally agreed-upon interpretations. Little attention is called to historians' controversies. The instructor is free to interpolate his historiographical expertise when and if he chooses.

A relatively few contemporary illustrations bring successive eras to life but do not overshadow the text itself or impede reading. There are many well-drawn maps, including city maps of London at important periods. The cover, featuring the Union Jack, and endpapers are eye-catching.

There are some weaknesses. The acknowledged political orientation is overdone. Especially in the chapters on the later Stuarts and the early eighteenth century, beginning students are told more than they need or usually want to know about the intricacies of domestic and international politics. The authors' blandness and neutrality in treating social themes will infuriate new left historians. Curiously, in a book with this title and Plumb's introduction, Britain's economy, society, and culture are canvassed very superficially. The authors fail to make good the claim of their preface to give "great attention" to the "conditions in which English men and women lived, worked, prayed, studied, and enjoyed life." The Celtic Fringe is ignored, and there is not much about the Empire. There are occasional errors (e.g., the ones in the map of nineteenth-century Africa on page 314). The scholarly bibliographies include rather too many works heavy in style as well as substance.

The English Heritage is intended to be used with the short topical and biographical studies in the Forum Series on modern European history. There are about a dozen of these paperbacks adaptable to a British history course.

University of Prince Edward Island

Don M. Cregier

EDITOR'S NOTE: For a close look at the work of writing The English Heritage, see Frederic A. Youngs, Jr., "Writing a Textbook: A Case Study in English History," Teaching History, III (Fall, 1978), 59-64.

J.R. Hay. The Development of the British Welfare State, 1880-1975. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1978. Pp. x, 116. Cloth, \$18.95. C.J. Bartlett. A History of Postwar Britain, 1945-1974. New York: Longman, Inc., 1977. Pp. v, 360. Cloth, \$19.00; paper, \$9.95.

In 1828 William Huskisson said, "England cannot afford to be little. She must be what she is, or nothing. . . ." In his history of postwar Britain, C.J. Bartlett chronicles England's becoming small territorially and smaller economically. It is a dreary tale made interminable by Bartlett's telling. While covering a longer but overlapping period, J.R. Hay, in a slender volume of documents concerning the growth of the welfare state, relates how, in a sense quite beyond the ken of Huskisson, Britain has become larger.

The scope of these books is indicated by their titles. Hay has arranged his documents topically to illustrate conflicting and changing opinions about welfare services, seeking with some success to explain the various forces that produced the modern welfare state. The volume runs only slightly over one hundred pages and might have been interestingly expanded by the inclusion of more response from those on the lower end of the economic scale. Excepting a few poignant cries of suffering from the beginning of his period, Hay has not taken notice of those who benefitted most from the welfare state. Otherwise the book is well balanced, covering public, private, and vested interests in question. Politicians, employers, bureaucrats, capitalists, and socialists all have their say.

Bartlett has also covered his ground adequately and with competent scholarship. He has included an excellent bibliography. His narrative, as he suggests in his preface, is restricted, and the emphases are politics and economics. Swinging Carnaby Street is not traversed, and foreign affairs are approached from a domestic political orientation. Dramatic foreign confrontations like that at Suez fade into the grayness of successive economic crises. Although economics is a necessary theme in a study of the postwar era, it is, unless carefully handled, a dismal one. Bartlett's prose is pedestrian--at times crippled--and there is an unfortunately high number of typographical errors which will serve to annoy those waging the seemingly fruitless fight to convince students that linguistic precision is not yet archaic.

Neither of these books is for secondary students, but the contrast between them is stark when considered from the standpoint of the college student. It is difficult to imagine an undergraduate enjoying or even a less than dutiful one actually reading Bartlett. Hay, on the other hand, manages to give a sense of the difficulties and struggles that the proponents of the welfare state faced, and he avoids turning the subject into a statistical bog. Although an undergraduate will need more guidance than Hay's brief introductions to the documents offer, he should need little prodding to do the reading. The editor provides some useful insights to the historiographical views of the theme and suggests how the various documents illustrate these opinions. Although both of these works seem aimed at classroom use, only one has found the range.



Donald Kagan, ed. The End of the Roman Empire: Decline or Transformation? Second edition. Lexington, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath and Co., 1978. Pp. xii, 188. Paper, \$3.95.

Of the many topical readers published for use in the studying of history, few have had as useful a life as the Problems in European Civilization series. This series has centered upon important and controversial events, movements, theories, and personalities in European history from ancient times to the present. Each volume brings together under able editorship numerous views on its theme, spurring the reader to "check, sift, interpret, and draw conclusions from a variety of authoritative sources."

In The End of the Roman Empire those series objectives hold true. The problem, Rome's fall from power, is clearly but briefly presented, along with its many complicated interpretations. The varying interpretations are given as excerpts from the writings of many leading scholars on the issue. These selections are organized into four sections: The Problem of Decline and Fall Stated; The Causes; Not Decline but Transformation; and Lessons for the Future.

The value of this book lies in its ability to present a perennial problem of history in a thorough, understandable, and modern way. Because of the scholarship of its selection authors--Rostovtzeff, Walbank, Bury, Gibbon, Baynes, and others--a sound introduction to the problem is gained.

As a teaching aid, readers have proven themselves. However, they seem to be most effective after their problem or concern is placed into some type of perspective. This type of book should not be assigned to students who are taking a Western Civilization survey course. Readers demand discussion. The strengths and weaknesses of an opinion must be weighed. Also, many excerpts require specific knowledge. Ramsay MacMullen's selection on " Militarism in the Late Empire" requires some knowledge of the organization and workings of the Roman army.

The End of the Roman Empire is appropriate for both high school and college students. Use with senior high school students would probably require the teacher to be more a disseminator of knowledge, while use with college students would probably allow the teacher to be more a resource person. It is highly recommended as a teaching resource.

Harwood Union High School

Charles M. Flail

Alexander J. DeGrand. The Italian Nationalist Association and the Rise of Fascism in Italy. Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1978. Pp. x, 238. Cloth, \$12.50. Leon Poliakov. The Aryan Myth: A History of Racist and Nationalist Ideas in Europe. New York: Meridian, 1974. Pp. x, 388. Paper, \$4.95. Esmonde M. Robertson. Mussolini as Empire Builder: Europe and Africa, 1932-36. New York: St. Martin's, 1978. Pp. 246. Cloth, \$17.95.

Students of recent European history will find both new insights and challenging interpretations in the works considered below. Both Alexander J. DeGrand's and Esmonde M. Robertson's studies represent valuable additions to the growing literature on the genesis of Italian fascism and on Italy's foreign policy under Mussolini; Leon Poliakov's work should be a "must" for anyone concerned with the frightening impact of racist thought on European civilization.

DeGrand's study traces the origins of the Italian Nationalist Association (ANI) from its informal beginnings in 1903 to its fusion with the

Fascist party in 1923. The author's principal argument is that the Italian nationalists played a crucial role in defeating the ambitions of radical fascists and that they exercised a predominant influence on the developing character of the Fascist state, making it both institutionally and ideologically conservative.

Although generally viewed as a mere copy of the Action Francaise and a peripheral movement at best, the ANI, DeGrand argues, was substantially different. As an essentially imperialist movement, it stressed the need for a colonial outlet and sought to offer to the Right an alternative to Giolitti's program: a hierarchical and corporatist authoritarian order at home and an aggressive imperialistic policy abroad. While the pursuit of that goal eventually led the ANI into a merger with the Fascists--admittedly hardly a gain for the ANI--DeGrand argues that Luigi Federzoni's control of the Ministry of the Interior and Alfredo Rocco's of the Ministry of Justice gave the nationalists an important voice in the shaping of the Fascist state. This fact, DeGrand maintains, gave Italian fascism its "statist authoritarian structures," and explains in part why party autonomy was reduced to a minimum and why repression became a function of the traditional state bureaucracy, rather than of an Italian equivalent of the Nazi SS.

DeGrand's concise and lucid account, however, also leaves the reader with some nagging questions. The fact that most of the Nationalist leaders were shunted aside within a few years by the very regime they had helped create raises the question as to their actual political efficacy. Furthermore, the contention that "the Nationalists' genius was in their ability to appropriate the political instruments designed by others to carry out their conservative modernization" requires, for one thing, a far more thorough explication of conservative modernization. However, these are minor flaws, which in no way detract from the overall importance of DeGrand's study.

Leon Poliakov's The Aryan Myth, in essence an analysis of the evolution of racist thought in European civilization, is the kind of challenging, if at times disturbing, book which is bound to leave a lasting impression on the reader. The author examines the development of the myths of origin of the principal nations of Europe and shows that these myths, defined as "compromises between pagan memories, dynastic ambitions, and the teachings of the Church," usually emphasized a preference for Germanic stock and thus clashed with the myth of Adam as the universal father of mankind. Poliakov stresses the anti-racist and the anti-nationalist aspects of the Judaeo-Christian tradition and suggests that, isolated manifestations of racism notwithstanding, in the final analysis, the anthropology of the Church upheld the concept of the unity of the human race.

The crucial turning point, marked by the rejection of Adam as the universal ancestor, came with the Enlightenment and its critique of the genealogy inherent in the Judaeo-Christian teachings. The emergence of the Aryan theory, which the author understands as a product of the "first groping of the sciences of man as they tried to model themselves on the exact science," resulted in the replacement of man's Biblical ancestors with a non-Semitic Indian ancestry which brought in its wake a flood of pseudo-scientific theories leading to the eventual emergence of Germanic Aryanism. Even though the latter lost some of its credibility among scientists before the turn of the century, it found wide acceptance among certain popularizers who propagated a racial manicheism which remained the standard fare of anti-Semitic and nationalistic demagogues and agitators until its elevation to the dogma of the Third Reich. The Holocaust, in the author's view, becomes the culmination of the long struggle to reject the anti-racist traditions of



Judaeo-Christianity by exterminating the Jews as the bearers of the Old Testament message.

Perhaps the most impressive achievement of this work lies in the author's skill at exploring the connections between modern man's extermination of his own kind and his compulsive need to make the story of his origins conform to the new nationalistic and racist tenets. For all its wide-ranging erudition, the work also has some serious shortcomings, most of which may be attributed to the attempt to undertake a task of such magnitude within some 300 pages. Still, this is a challenging, sometimes even brilliant work, even though the author's attempt to use Freudian psychology as a means of establishing a psychopathological cause for anti-Semitism remains unconvincing.

Esmonde M. Robertson's analysis of the complex course of Italy's foreign relations under Mussolini in the years between 1932 and the outbreak of the Ethiopian war is a well-executed work of sound historical scholarship. While the focus of this volume is on Mussolini's efforts to turn the Mediterranean into Italy's Mare Nostrum, the author's broad approach also extends to an examination of Italy's relations with most European and some Near Eastern powers. The result makes for a skillful assessment of the tortuous course of Italy's policy of "equidistance," a kind of "maneuvering between the powers" which was necessitated by Mussolini's realization that Italy's military weakness ruled out a single-handed attack on either Britain or France.

Robertson's assessment of Mussolini calls into question the image of the opportunistic would-be Caesar and suggests that, miscalculations and policy shifts notwithstanding, the Duce in fact pursued a consistent and systematic foreign policy which, long before the Ethiopian war, involved a war of aggression as a demonstration of Fascist dynamism. Frustrated in his plans to dismember Yugoslavia, beset by internal problems, and anxious to secure the Brenner frontier--a precondition for his African ambitions--Mussolini pursued a tortuous and often heavy-handed policy which ultimately ended in a rapprochement with Germany and the establishment of the Rome-Berlin Axis.

One of the merits of Robertson's work lies in its judicious and concise analysis of the gradual shifts in German-Italian relations. In particular, the various diplomatic and economic maneuvers, such as the fluctuations in Germany's policy towards Ethiopia or in Hitler's shift towards a policy of support for Italy--once he appreciated the potential problems arising from an Italian defeat--serve to illustrate the intricate and complex web of German-Italian relations. All the more disappointing, therefore, is the concluding chapter of this otherwise excellent work. The author's brief discussion of the significance and especially the consequences of the Ethiopian war as well as his failure to provide a more clearly stated, even if tentative, answer to the questions raised in the volume's introductory remarks leave the reader somewhat puzzled. On balance, however, Robertson's work deserves the serious attention of all students in twentieth-century European history.

Peter N. Carroll and David W. Noble. The Free and the Unfree: A New History of the United States. New York: Penguin, 1977. Pp. 448. Paper, \$4.95.

The authors describe The Free and the Unfree as a "'counter-culture' interpretation of American History." While they acknowledge the political dominance of a white male Anglo-Saxon ruling elite, the authors explore the historical experiences of women, Native Americans, Afro-Americans, and ethnic-Americans. The authors emphasize the interrelationships between the established groups in society and the outgroups.

The book is organized into four parts containing eighteen chapters and an epilogue with a selected bibliography for each chapter. Each part covers a historical era: (1) pre-Columbian settlement through the American Revolution and the formation of the Constitution; (2) establishment of the new nation through the Civil War; (3) Reconstruction through World War I; (4) the roaring 1920s through Watergate. In each of the four parts a significant amount of space is devoted to the history of the various outgroups within the traditional political chronology. Throughout the book Carroll and Noble compare the cultural, intellectual, and social values of the Old World with the New World, Native Americans with the immigrant colonizers, Afro-Americans with white Americans, and frontier America with the urban industrializing nation of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The focus of this comparison is upon the differing attitudes toward time, geographic space, and the environment. The seasonal measurement of time both in the Medieval era and in the world of the Native American is contrasted with the continuing need for more precise measurements of time to regulate work and order life in a commercial-minded and later industrializing America.

Carroll and Noble have written a distinctly valuable single-volume synthesis of American history which contains a significant amount of data on familial, women, black, and Indian history. The limitations of a one-volume study have required rather brief examinations of such political topics as Progressivism, Reconstruction, and the New Deal. But the interpretive, smoothly-written narrative should provide students with the incentive to think beyond the digestion of facts and dates to the meaning of the American experience.

Seton Hall University

Larry A. Greene

Irwin Unger. These United States: The Questions of Our Past. Boston: Little, Brown, 1978. Pp. xxiv, 993, lxxix. Cloth, \$15.95 (single-volume ed.); paper, \$9.95 (two-volume ed.). H.L. Ingle and James A. Ward. American History: A Brief View. Boston: Little, Brown, 1978. Pp. xii, 500, ix. Paper, \$9.95 (single-volume ed.); \$5.95/volume (two-volume ed.).

In writing a survey history of the United States, authors become immersed in a series of quandries. How can historical perspective be provided in a limited number of pages? What approach (chronological or topical) should pervade the manuscript? Is there a way to tie each chapter together so that the reader will relate the broad details to an analytical framework? Irwin Unger's These United States: The Questions of Our Past attempts to deal with these questions in a unique and interesting manner.

Unger begins each chapter with a question and chronological outline. He then interweaves the time line with textual material in answering the question. The chapter ends with a summary conclusion, relating the information provided in the readings to the theme of the chapter.



While using this method as a major theme, he also relates the on-going story of two families to illustrate and personalize the growth and development of the United States. The families he uses, the Alexanders and Goulds, are not typical American families. They are achievers but each, in its own manner, is part of the way that the United States has grown and changed throughout its history. Unger makes excellent use of pictures and geneologies in describing the rise and fall of various members of the families. The stories of the families are interwoven throughout the book, and Unger is at his best when writing about them.

Besides the use of family histories, the other outstanding feature of this volume is the bibliographies at the close of each chapter. Instead of a list of books, the author provides in each case an annotated bibliography that should be very helpful to readers.

Other than the use of questions, geneologies, and annotated bibliographies, this is a standard American history text. There are plenty of maps and pictures; however, none are in color. I suspect that students will enjoy reading the text.

Ingle and Ward's American History: A Brief View is true to its title; in fact, it is too true and too brief. While the authors describe their work as "interpreting," it is hard to recognize any historical perspective or interpretation. Instead, a groups of chronologically related facts are put together in a series of chapters. As an example, in describing President Ford's attempts to fight inflation, the authors begin to analyze John Maynard Keynes and his economic theories. This analysis is done in three sentences, is vague, and hardly relates to Ford's ideas about cutting government spending.

More depth and detail are needed throughout the book. This volume may be of use to those who want a brief companion volume to a standard text, but it could not be used as a single text.

The University of Texas at San Antonio

Richard A. Diem

Maxine Seller. To Seek America: A History of Ethnic Life in America.

Englewood, New Jersey: Jerome S. Ozer, 1977. Pp. 328. Paper, \$6.95.

The renewed interest in ethnic history during the past decade has led to a number of polemical and academic studies on specific ethnic groups, but it has not produced a major synthesis of recent scholarship. Fortunately, this void has been filled with the publication of Maxine Seller's new text, To Seek America. This book goes beyond Maldwyn Allen Jones, American Immigration, by its incorporating the new social history into synthesis, while providing a better balance of coverage on earlier ethnic groups than the reader will find in Leonard Dinnerstein and David Reimers, Ethnic Americans. The book should receive wide distribution in the academic community, even though it has been published by a small company in northern New Jersey.

It is important to mention areas not covered by Professor Seller. She does not deal with the majority WASP culture except for its impact on the ethnic groups. Neither does she treat very extensively the European background and the journey to the United States so well covered in Philip Taylor, The Distant Magnet. Nor does she discuss Native-Americans or Afro-Americans. Consequently, those who teach a course on race and ethnic history will have to find supplements to the Seller's text.

In spite of these omissions, To Seek America is the major synthesis of American ethnic history. Its real strength lies in the book's ability to cover both the traditional areas of immigration history and the more recent topics known as the "new social history." Seller covers some familiar territory such as the pushes and pulls of various groups, their settlements on farms and cities, the impact of the immigrant on the industrialization of America, and the nativist responses to the influx of the foreigners. She enriches that traditional approach by carefully distinguishing the different groups in their family relationships, religious practices, and educational backgrounds. Her chapter on the ethnic press, theatre, and literature covers territory which is rarely found in other texts.

This is not to say that the book is without flaws. The chapter on ethnic institutions is too general and covers a longer time span (1820-1924) than is found in other sections of the book. Seller accepts Milton Gordon's distinction between cultural assimilation and structural assimilation but does not come to grips with the impact of ethnicity on class as a framework for viewing American history. While the bibliography is excellent on books, a fuller listing of the recent articles from the Journal of Social History, Labor History, and the Journal of Interdisciplinary History would have been helpful.

To Seek America is the text to use in an ethnic history course if you are limited to a single choice. Other texts in the field will be written, but Professor Seller has pointed the direction and hopefully the standards these will follow.

Howard Community College (Maryland)

Larry Madaras

Willie Lee Rose, ed. A Documentary History of Slavery in North America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977. Pp. xvi, 537. Cloth, \$19.95; paper, \$7.00.

As the seventies move to a close, it can be said with certainty that the subject of slavery is firmly rooted in American and Black history courses. Indeed, the last decade or so has seen a virtual avalanche of studies covering just about every facet of the American slavery experience. Thus the first response upon receiving Willie Lee Rose's documentary history of slavery is a hearty welcome. A history of slavery through primary sources is much needed amid the plethora of interpretive scholarship on slavery. There are questions to be raised, however, concerning its use in the classroom.

The first of these questions is forthrightly confronted by the author herself: the difficult task of selecting from an abundance of records those which can give the student an overall view of slavery without sacrificing the moral, social, economic, and political depth of the experience itself. One cannot help but wonder how meaningful it is for students to be confronted with so many conflicting views in one volume. Within this book are documents covering the views of slave owners, slave narratives, transcripts of laws enacted to bolster slavery, descriptions of horrible cruelties, abolitionist attacks, and rejoinders by pro-slavery advocates. Though each selection is prefaced with some commentary by Rose to set the context, the selections are allowed to speak for themselves. Thus any use of this text in a classroom necessitates that the teacher use supplementary interpretive works to give meaning to the selections.

The second question concerning the volume is its purpose. In an effort to be judicious and balanced, and in attempting to capture the atmosphere of the peculiar institution, Rose has presented a book that in many ways will



confuse the student newly exposed to the topic. The subtleties, ambiguities, and conflicting perceptions on the part of both slave and master tend to be overwhelming. In some respects, the book almost does in narrative/documentary form what Fogel and Engerman did in Time on the Cross: deemphasizes the immense damage experienced by everyone involved in the slave experience by promoting the idea that everyone's perspective is equally valid. What the masters did, whatever their psychological or economic perspective, was wrong. To summon material showing that some slaves tended to accept or mitigate the harsh treatment they received tends to obscure the ultimate psychic damage and exploitative nature that the slave system inculcated in black and white people.

The questions of how and why slavery attained so integral, forceful, and destructive a place in American society are buried so deeply as to be unnoticed in this book. This diminishes the usefulness of the book in a general American history course. Its use in Black history courses is only heightened when it supplements interpretive works by Stamp, Genovese, Blassingame, Owens, and others. Only by reading these studies along with Rose, and with explanations provided by the teacher, will a fuller view of slavery begin to emerge.

Colby College

Charles T. Haley

Alice Marriott and Carol Rachlin. Plains Indian Mythology. New York: Mentor, 1975. Pp. xi, 180. Paper, \$1.75.

In this long-awaited sequel to their highly acclaimed American Indian Mythology, Alice Marriott and Carol Rachlin delve into the rich body of Plains Indian oral tradition. The result is a delightful anthology of prose and poetry which will undoubtedly help its readers penetrate the mystic aura of Native American lore. The authors are meticulous researchers; few know more than they of Plains Indian culture. They are anthropologists by training, but their knowledge of Indian history gives the volume a distinct ethnohistorical emphasis. This melding of fields lays the groundwork for a revealing insight into Indian life on the Plains over time.

The collection is especially well suited to classroom use, for, unlike many previously published volumes of American Indian prose and poetry, the book at hand not only defines, but distinguishes between "folklore," "mythology," and "legendry," thereby helping to alleviate student confusion over semantics. The selections, moreover, are arranged chronologically--from creation myths and the educative "little stories," to eighteenth and nineteenth-century historical chronicles and modern songs. That much of the material came to the authors firsthand will enhance reader appreciation of oral tradition and the importance of its preservation.

The volume is concise, affordable, and selections are nicely introduced by the authors. Here, in short, are some well-told tales for the pleasure and edification of general reader and scholar alike.

Morningside College

Michael B. Husband

J. Frank Dobie. Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico (c. 1967), 1976. Pp. xiii, 366. Paper, \$4.95. James B. Gillett. Six Years with the Texas Rangers, 1875-1881. Lincoln: University of Nebraska (c. 1925), 1976. Pp. xxxvi, 259. Paper, \$3.95. Robert Edgar Riegel. The Story of the Western Railroads: From 1852 Through the Reign of the Giants. Lincoln: University of Nebraska (c. 1926), 1964. Pp. xv, 345. Paper, \$3.95.

Paperback reprints of popular books have proven a lucrative business during the last twenty years, and in no field of study is this more evident than in the history of the American Frontier. Among the several western university presses which have pursued this reprint service, none surpasses the work done by the University of Nebraska Press with its celebrated Bison series. Perhaps the secret to Bison's success is the editorial staff's choice of books, which combine a list of titles of strongly scholarly merit with others of a broader popular appeal. Thus the reprints have found a place both in the college classroom and in the hands of thousands of frontier "buffs" who keep the field exciting and meaningful.

Characteristic of this twin mission are two recent reprints from the University of Nebraska Press. Robert Riegel's The Story of the Western Railroads, the more scholarly of the two, presents an overview of railway construction in the Trans-Mississippi West from the military surveys of the 1850s through the corporate reorganizations of the 1880s and 1890s. Absent are the tales of brawling construction crews, Sodom and Gomorrah-type railheads, and Indian attacks on work parties. This is primarily the financial story of railroad building, and therefore it concentrates upon economic issues such as the Credit Mobilier, corporate struggles for favorable rights-of-way, federal land and loan subsidies to hasten construction, and the effects of financial panics in 1873 and 1893. Individual chapters also analyze railroad impact upon foreign immigration, ineffective government regulations, and the growing opposition to railroad power from westerners and from organized labor by the 1890s. Two faults mar this work, which is still considered something of a "classic"--its lack of maps and the fact that it has undergone no updating since its publication in 1926. Much new information, sometimes at variance with Riegel, has appeared during the last fifty years, thus necessitating the need for a similarly-conceived work today.

James Gillett's Six Years with the Texas Rangers, 1875-1881 is a classic in its own right, though very different in style and intent than Riegel's work. Mustered into the Rangers at the age nineteen, Gillett was assigned to the central Texas region during the lawless days of the Mason County War and subsequently helped track down the Sam Bass gang of train robbers. More enlightening, however, is his discussion of Ranger activities in far west Texas against Victorio's Apaches, and as arbiters of justice in El Paso's Salt Lake War. Six Years with the Texas Rangers makes no pretense at being an objective record of that romanticized organization, but it does present a first-hand account better than anyone else has ever told it. The book can be read for its historical information, but it deserves more attention as a good piece of frontier literature which captures the attitudes and excitement of a bygone era.

Somewhat in the same literary category is J. Frank Dobie's Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver, reprinted by the University of New Mexico Press. Unlike Gillett's work, which draws from personal experiences, Dobie's interest is in the rich folklore of the Southwestern Borderlands where the worlds of Spaniard, Indian, and Anglo meet. The author has long been recognized as a masterful storyteller with his tales of lost treasures hidden deep in canyon recesses, but kept alive by the oral traditions of generations of



southwesterners. Chapter titles such as "Eight Days Towards the Sunset," "Under the Mesa of the Bell-Maker," and "The Man Who Was Not Dead" spark the imagination of those already initiated into the mystical world of J. Frank Dobie. And even for those uninitiated, there is the lengthy story of the Lost Dutchman Mine, hidden for over a century in the Superstition Mountains of Arizona. This is southwestern folklore at its best.

While all three of the above titles will probably find their major markets outside of academia, they do have a function for some college classes. Courses in Frontier History might include both the Riegel and Gillett books, while Business History might adopt the former and a course in comparative systems of justice might utilize Gillett. Likewise, Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver offers great promise for folklore classes and historical courses on the Southwestern Borderlands. If western university presses continue to make available large numbers of similar paperback reprints, these will undoubtedly find their way into more college classrooms and into the hands of many more non-academic readers.

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Michael L. Tate

Emma Goldman. Living My Life. Edited by Richard and Anna Maria Drinnon. New York: The New American Library, 1977. Pp. 754. Paper, \$6.95.

This new one-volume edition of Emma Goldman's autobiography presents her work, according to Richard and Anna Maria Drinnon, "precisely as she had wanted it to appear in the first place." In 1930, although under contract to Alfred A. Knopf for her memoirs "up to the present day," she decided to conclude them at the point of her deportation to Russia (1919). Knopf refused to allow this and forced Goldman to bring them up to date. What the Drinnons have done, therefore, is to conclude Living My Life at the point she wished it to end and to summarize in an Afterword the last six chapters of the original manuscript.

It is easy to see why this project is appealing. It cuts down the sheer bulk of the two-volume edition of 993 pages to a more manageable 735 pages of text, thus reducing the price for classroom use. On the other hand, we miss Goldman's accounts of her two years in Russia, her subsequent exile in France, and her continuing lecture tours. This omission is significant because what is gained by reading Living My Life is more than biographical details. Through it we get marvelous first-hand accounts of major events in United States history, such as the Chicago Haymarket affair and the assassination of William McKinley, in addition to her own experiences of labor unions, prisons, and the fight for birth control. All of these give a marvelous eye onto late nineteenth and early twentieth-century American social life, and as such the book is a valuable classroom addition. What is omitted in this edition, although repeated in her My Disillusionment in Russia, is her excellent (and early) criticisms of Lenin's authoritarian regime, which would be illuminating for students of Russian history to read in the context of Goldman's own life and views.

Nonetheless, the book preserves, especially in its excellent bibliographical essay, the true spirit of Emma Goldman. Living My Life is an historical document as well as a biographical one, but it also presents us with a clear exposition of anarchist philosophy. What Goldman managed to do in her life was to unite the theory with the practice of anarchism, no matter what that meant in terms of personal comfort and relationships. These things, so highly personal, are usually omitted from political autobiography. Goldman's candor and honesty in revealing her hurts as well as her triumphs

allow us to see her fully, perhaps as "Red Emma," the political theorist, but also as Emma, the woman.

Beyond this, there is another important lesson to be learned from Emma Goldman. The idea of "living one's life"--to the very fullest, in the very moment--is what survives even if the reader cannot agree with all of her overtly political views. It has been said that Goldman felt that if there was no dancing during the revolution, then she didn't want the revolution. This lesson, although perhaps not historical in the academic sense, is indeed important for one's personal history.

Hampshire College

Sally Allen

John Baskin. New Burlington: The Life and Death of an American Village. New York: Plume, 1977. Pp. xii, 259. Paper, \$2.95. Diana Klebanow, Franklin L. Jonas, and Ira M. Leonard. Urban Legacy: The Story of America's Cities. New York: Mentor, 1977. Pp. xix, 421. Paper, \$2.95.

Victim of suburban and exurban sprawl, technological change and agribusiness, rural life in America grows daily more foreign to a people once steeped in its style and rituals. Paradigmatic of this process, New Burlington, Ohio, for nearly two centuries a farming village between Dayton and Cincinnati, was inundated early in this decade by the building of a dam. In the year before its passing, John Baskin interviewed the last remaining elders of the village, creating a brilliant and evocative social history. There is very little here of historical narration by the author and that is perhaps just as well, judging from his assertion in the prologue that "the village begins its own telephone company, prompted by the news of Lincoln's assassination which does not reach them for 24 hours." His genius lies in selection and arrangement of the tales told by the villagers, and what emerges is not a treatise but a compelling vision of what it was like to live in such a place, in such a time. Baskin's book is a concentric unfolding of bygone events and their lasting emotional content. Illustrated with photos, past and present, rich in anecdotes, vigorous in homespun language and imagery, it is as ample a feast for the heart as for the mind. I cannot imagine a better way to confront students with the actuality of American rural life in the past than by means of this beautiful, bittersweet book.

If rural America has all but vanished, there are those who seem to think that the disappearance of urban America may not be long in coming. At the very outset of Urban Legacy, the issue is boldly addressed: "Are the major cities of the United States presently in a state of dissolution? Or, to put the question another way, is there an urban future for the American people?" Unfortunately, no clear answer emerges. Having posed the question, the authors review the history of American cities from the first English settlements, attempting to account for the forces which have shaped American urban development by focusing particularly on socioeconomic, ethnic, and racial conflicts. The result is a fine précis of what the major historians of urban America have said. Most of the important books seem to have been consulted, the influential interpretations noted, the major trends described. It is a bit, however, like the pianist who strikes all of the correct notes and holds a majority of them for the proper interval: something is lacking. Students will find this a solid, workmanlike summary, crammed with information, but one which is choppy organized, stylistically barren, and shy about taking on the question of America's urban future, which the authors seemed to announce as the raison d'être of their history.

Suffolk University

Joseph M. McCarthy



Readers of Professor van Hartesveldt's review of books on recent British history, above, may also be interested in two other books on an earlier period in British history. A.D. Harvey, Britain in the Early Nineteenth Century, and John Roach, Social Reform in England, 1780-1880, both from St. Martin's Press (1978), deal with the period just prior to the Hay and Bartlett volumes discussed by van Hartesveldt. Harvey combines political, social, and economic history in a detailed study of social and ideological conflict in the decades around 1800, while Roach focuses more narrowly on social reform over a longer span of time. The latter study appears to provide a nice companion volume to J.R. Hay, The Development of the British Welfare State, 1880-1975. At \$22.50 each, these volumes will not see much use as required texts, but should prove valuable in libraries as collateral sources.

Michael Gordon, ed., The American Family in Social-Historical Perspective, has become a standard source in many family history courses around the country. Teachers in that field will applaud the appearance of the second edition (St. Martin's Press, 1978). Don't throw away your first editions, however; only seven of the essays in the earlier volume are carried over into the new and larger edition. This attractive reader is arranged topically, with two new sections and more essays on women in the family. This edition costs \$14.95 in hardback, \$7.95 paperback.

The Fall, 1978, issue of Teaching History carried a review of Walter Laquer's The Guerrilla Reader, an historical anthology on guerilla movements. The companion volume, Walter Laquer, ed., The Terrorism Reader: A Historical Anthology (New York: Meridian, 1978), is now available. The editor has marshalled an impressive array of writers, from theorists and activists through critics and analysts, from Aristotle to the Baader-Meinhof, to explicate a contemporary and historical phenomenon. \$5.95 in paperback.

Robert Marcus and David Burner, American Voices: A Historical Reader (2 vols; Glenview, Ill.: Scott, Foresman and Co., 1979; Paper, \$6.95 per volume), the newest collection of readings in American history, attempts, with greater success than is usual in the genre, to capture the voices of the nation. The selections are outstanding for their evocation of their subject, their speakers, or even their age. There are, thankfully, no State Documents here, no Presidential speeches (though Jefferson and Madison are heard from, several years before there even was a Presidency). Instead, the volumes offer selections drawn from narratives, fiction, essays, and other historical sources, written by the famous and the obscure. The collection will be sought particularly by teachers desiring to introduce more social history and more of the emotional life of history into their classes.

The second Mid-America Conference on History, sponsored by the Department of History at Southwest Missouri State University, will be held on September 20-22, 1979, in Springfield, Missouri. No particular theme is planned. Some graduate student sessions will be created. Please send proposals for papers or sessions, along with a one-page abstract, to James N. Giglio, Department of History, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield, Missouri 65802, by May 15, 1979.