## BOOK REVIEWS

James Hoopes. Oral History: An Introduction for Students. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1979. Pp. 155. Cloth, $10.00; paper, $5.00.

"History," writes Professor Hoopes in the opening chapter of this slender but significant and substantial introductory volume on the curricular uses of oral history, "should be one of the most interesting, personally challenging, of all disciplines . . . yet students have been voting with their feet in recent years, and enrollment in history courses has declined sharply." This paradoxical state of affairs he attributes in part to the discipline's having become an increasingly technical one, to the point where for students "technics may have obscured history's human content." Accordingly, as a modest attempt toward revitalizing the study of history in the college and secondary school classroom, Hoopes (who sees the heart of historical work in the human challenge it poses) dedicates Oral History to acquainting students (and, by implication certainly, teachers) with "a method of historical research--oral history--that is necessarily a human challenge, because it involves direct personal contact with other people."

This purpose the author fulfills in estimable fashion. The book, much like oral history documents, is conveyed in a personal voice--one which refrains, in spite of the implicit temptation involved in writing introductory methodological studies of this sort, from lapsing into a lifelessly mechanical account of the techniques involved in interviewing and technical processing (though a good working bibliography appropriate to this dimension of oral history is included by Hoopes to round off his volume). Oral History, while useful as a supplement to existing oral history guides and manuals, makes its chief contribution to the student enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary history class who is confronted with the assignment of a research paper pertinent to a topic in recent or contemporary history. What it suggests to such a student is that historical research and writing can be a vital process, that oral history can be a potent instrument if properly understood, undertaken, and employed within the larger framework of interpreting past events and developments, and that both history in general and oral history in particular have utility not only for the end of understanding the society and culture in which one lives but also for that of self-understanding.

The format of Oral History is designed for easy and systematic reading and comprehension, and lends itself both to a total reading in one sitting or to selective rereading of required sections. The book is divided into four parts: the opening one relates oral history to history and points out the value of the former to the student; part two illuminates the role of oral history in historical explanation by relating it to the social scientific categories of personality, culture, and society; part three centers on the interviewing experience per se, offering sound--and often very insightful--advice as to setting up, preparing for, conducting, and processing interviews; and the final part rivets its attention on such assorted matters as how to incorporate oral history material into research papers, the legal and ethical concerns of oral history, and how to locate relevant oral history collections and noteworthy studies dependent in large measure on oral sources.

I predict a warm reception for this book. It is intelligently conceived, gracefully written, judiciously documented, and unobtrusively yet surely instructive. Students will be encouraged by it to use oral history in their research, and teachers (who are wise enough to assign it) will reap the harvest of greatly enriched studies--and students. In the field of oral history, James Hoopes' Oral History is, in its way, a minor classic. As the former director of a major oral history program, as a professor of history who

has regularly employed oral history in his class offerings, and as the recently appointed editor of The Oral History Review, I enthusiastically and unequivocally recommend this book.

California State University, Fullerton Arthur A. Hansen

Robin S. Winks. Western Civilization: A Brief History. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1979. Pp. xv, 484. Paper, $12.95.
Raymond F. Betts. Europe in Retrospect: A Brief History of the Past Two Hundred Years. Lexington, Massachusetts: D.C. Heath and Co., 1979. Pp. xvi, 249. Paper, $5.95.

Both of these texts are designed to be used for introductory Western Civilization courses, but there the similarity ends. Europe in Retrospect is exactly what the sub-title implies, a brief history of Europe from the French Revolution to the present, while Professor Winks has written a one-volume text that attempts to provide a summary and analysis of Western Civilization from the ancient world to the present.

Professor Betts defends the study of modern European history in his preface by contending that "regardless of our place of origin . . . we are all part European in our social behavior and our thought patterns." The book is specifically intended for "those introductory students who want an overview rather than a heavily detailed account." He has divided the text into four major sections: "The Reordering of Europe: 1789-1871," "Expansion and Explosion: 1871-1918," "Reconstruction and New Order: 1918-1945," and "Europe in the Contemporary World." Each section is approximately 50-60 pages in length and is divided into four chapters. There is an introductory essay for each of the four sections and each section is rounded out by a Photo Essay, one of the most enjoyable and well-done features of the book. These essays are an attempt to blend art, architecture, and technology with major features of the period since the French Revolution. For instance, in the first one, "The Bourgeoisie Portrayed," Betts examines the changing image of the European middle-class by selected examples from major European and American artists of the ninteenth and twentieth centuries. In the last one, "The Humor of Technology," the author uses selected cartoons from Punch, dating from 1847 to 1951, to examine the "social implications of technology." There is a brief bibliography for each of the four sections at the end of the book, and four maps (three of Europe and one of the world) are also included. The emphasis of Europe in Retrospect is primarily social and economic history, with political events receiving secondary consideration.

The major problem with Professor Betts' text is not organization or material or internal structure, which is well done, but the fact that it simply fails to do what an introductory text should do: introduce the subject. This reviewer enjoyed reading the text, but constantly had the feeling that most freshmen would probably find themselves bewildered, rather than enlightened, by the structure and content. For instance, terms and names such as La Belle Epoque, Versailles, and Louis XIV are used without any explanation or definition. Debatable propositions and over-simplifications are stated as factual, such as the contention that all coal and foundry workers of the early nineteenth century were "broken in body and spirit before they turned thirty." The coverage of the First World War is composed of an analysis of several topics related to the war, with virtually no chronological information on what is normally a confusing period for most students. This is in contrast to the author's coverage of the French Revolution and the outbreak of World War II where he has provided good chronological coverage. To conclude, this book would be a valuable addition to a

junior-level course in nineteenth or twentieth-century Europe, but it simply will not serve the needs of most introductory Western Civilization courses because it assumes too much prior knowledge.

Western Civilization: A Brief History is much more successful and would probably prove more useful for introductory courses. In his introduction Professor Winks states his belief that human history can best be understood as "humankind's continuing search for security." Using this as his thesis he has attempted to provide "the irreducible minimum of necessary knowledge" about Western Civilization. The text is primarily concerned with social and political events, but Winks has avoided crowding the narrative with the numerous names and biographical data that are to be found in more detailed accounts. Its emphasis is on the period from the Middle Ages to the present, with the nineteenth and twentieth centuries taking up three of the six major sections of the text. Illustrations are adequate, but not plentiful, and the maps are clear and understandable. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the text is Professor Winks' tight and lucid style. In short, it is a well-done short text that should meet the needs of any instructor who does not wish to use a more detailed narrative.

Clayton Junior College Robert H. Welborn

Barbara Kanner, ed. The Women of England from Anglo-Saxon Times to the Present. Hamden, Connecticut: Shoe Strong Press, Inc., 1979. Pp. 429. Cloth, $25.00.

The Women of England from Anglo-Saxon Times to the Present, edited by Professor Barbara (Penny) Kanner of Occidental College, is a welcome addition to the body of literature on women. The book is a collection of twelve carefully prepared bibliographical essays by professors in the fields of history, women's studies, and sociology. These essays cover a time span of over a thousand years and are arranged chronologically, embracing the Anglo-Saxon, Norman, and Plantagenet periods, and proceeding through to the early twentieth century. Each author discusses available primary and secondary sources for the respective historical period and each author poses specific questions as to the future direction of research for that period. Detailed footnotes and extensive bibliographies accompany each essay.

Professor Kanner believes that the study of the history of British women will deepen and broaden our general understanding of British history. The Kanner challenge is embodied in her stated purpose for editing the collection, which is "to explore that history with a critical attitude posing questions pertaining to female English experience as it has been revealed in published historical writings, as it remains still obscure in untapped archival or other sources, and as it awaits fresh and newly relevant contexts." The authors meet Professor Kanner's challenge superbly by utilizing an interdisciplinary approach and by examining a wide variety of sources, including diaries, autobiographies, memoirs, treatises, legal documents, church records, census volumes, demographic studies, and novels.

Although there may be those who might quibble over omissions or interpretations of bibliographic data, The Women of England will be a popular reference tool among teachers and students of the history of women, English history, and general social history. The book not only presents carefully selected and comprehensive bibliographical materials embracing

several centuries, but it does so in a clear and concise manner that makes the reading both pleasurable and rewarding.

California Polytechnic State University — Shirlene Soto

Peter J. Klassen. Europe in the Reformation. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1979. Pp. vi, 298. Paper, $10.95.

Selecting a text for the Reformation presents more problems than one might expect. A text should have a proper balance between the necessary theological information and the political, economic, and social issues raised by these religious questions. Occasionally publishers assume the Reformation cannot be taught without its counterpart, the Renaissance, so they offer in a single volume two for one as in New, The Renaissance and Reformation (1969) or Nauert, The Age of Renaissance and Reformation (1977), or as a "combo" with one title but in two separate volumes as in Spitz, The Renaissance and Reformation Movements, Renaissance, Vol. I; Reformation, Vol. II (1971). For many years Grimm's classic The Era of Reformation (1954) was the vade mecum for undergraduates who studied the sixteenth century. Bainton's The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century (1952), Dickens's Reformation and Society in 16th-Century Europe (1969), and Hillerbrand's The World of the Reformation (1973) are attractive texts, all with a different emphasis. Now Europe in the Reformation has entered the field and offers another option for the instructor.

There is a tendency by writers to spend inordinate space discussing the precursors of the Reformation. Klassen does not follow that pattern: instead, he sketches in a single chapter the religious atmosphere in Europe on the eve of the Reformation. He offers clear accounts of Luther and Lutheranism, Zwinglianism, Calvinism, and Anglicanism. The complicated political/religious problems that beset the Holy Roman Empire, which students struggle to understand, are skillfully and clearly explained. Klassen follows the current usage of eschewing the term "Catholic Counter-Reformation" in favor of "Catholic Reform and Resurgence." The most difficult task in writing a popular volume on the Reformation, further limited by length, is to offer a meaningful concluding chapter. Though Klassen presents a careful assessment of Europe at the end of the tumultuous sixteenth century, he has not offered enough insights into the changing patterns of society, particularly of the role of women.

This is a well-written work made more attractive by illustrations, maps, and a bibliography. Europe in the Reformation is a good choice for a text on the Reformation.

University of Montana — Robert O. Lindsay

Gordon A. Craig. Germany 1866-1945. New York: Oxford University Press, 1980. Pp. 825. Paper, $10.95.

Some years ago, one of Gordon Craig's colleagues at Stanford remarked that whenever Craig gave a public lecture on campus "a hundred students would rush over to the history department to sign on as majors." Alas, such days are over even at Stanford, but this book exhibits some of the same attractive features as its author's lectures: an impressive grasp of the subject matter, clear guidance through a mass of men and events, and a flair for enlivening and enlightening the narrative with well-chosen quotations and bits of biographical information. But, in spite of the appeal of this

book and a widespread recognition that it has no peer, I doubt that many readers of Teaching History will adopt it as a textbook. It is detailed and long; not one map, chart, or photograph graces its pages; and it assumes more background than the average college undergraduate possesses. How many of them, for example, will be able to make sense out of the numerous untranslated German words and phrases that are sprinkled throughout the text?

On the other hand, for the teacher or more mature general reader (to whom The Oxford History of Modern Europe, of which it is a part, appeals) this book will be extremely interesting and valuable. Its footnotes not only reveal that Craig has utilized much of the vast output of recent scholarship on German history but provide the reader with new vistas for further reading. On controversial issues the author's judgements are balanced and provide reliable guidance for those who may not be familiar with all of the conflicting interpretations. On the question of German war aims 1914-1918, for example, he rejects Fritz Fischer's exaggerated condemnation of Bethmann-Hollweg and sides with the more moderate assessments by Mommsen and Jarausch.

In short, this is easily the best single volume on modern German history presently available and it is not likely to be soon superseded. It can be an invaluable resource for those teaching courses that touch on German or European history and a rewarding experience for all those who seek to understand the nation whose actions dominated the first half of the twentieth century.

Emporia State University Glenn E. Torrey

M.K. Dziewanowski. A History of Soviet Russia. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1979. Pp. x, 406. Paper, $12.95.

Perhaps the most outstanding feature of M. K. Dziewanowski's excellent book is his first chapter on the geopolitics of the Soviet Union. It clearly and concisely sets the stage for the remainder of the book by acquainting the reader with the geographical complexities of the Soviet state and their implications for Soviet government and society. The accompanying maps provide visual reinforcement of the textual material.

With this superb background, Dziewanowski is able to delve into the unusual history of the Russian state, clearly elucidating those traditions and practices which have helped to shape the nature of Soviet communism. Thus the reader is prepared for the revolutionary year of 1917 and the events which followed. The author's treatment, particularly of the Stalin period, is balanced and objective. Perhaps the weakest point of the book is the section on the Communization of Eastern Europe. Here Dziewanowski moves too quickly, obscuring many of the steps in the important process. The book ends with a thoughtful analysis of the current state of Soviet society and offers some tentative projections for the future.

Although Dziewanowski has crammed each of his chapters full of factual material, the chapters are short enough for the reader to keep the material in focus. Some chapters end with a clear summary of the information contained therein. Others do not have these summaries, thereby providing an occasional bit of confusion for the reader. Each chapter contains a useful bibliography of related works. Perhaps a few more illustrations and maps would heighten the interest of the average reader, but this is a very minor criticism.

Overall, I have found this to be the best survey I have seen on Soviet history. Its careful organization, thorough presentation, and general readability combine to meet the needs of college students with no background in the subject.

Northern Essex Community College Elizabeth J. Wilcoxson

James Kirby Martin. In the Course of Human Events: An Interpretive Exploration of the American Revolution. Arlington Heights, Illinois: AHM Publishing Corporation, 1979. Pp. x, 271. Cloth, $11.95, paper, $6.95.

This well-written text, based on close familiarity with recent historiography, follows traditional chronological and topical divisions. Part one, "The Conspiracy from Above," examines the colonies at mid-century, colonial resistance from the Stamp Act to the Boston Tea Party, and the final imperial crisis, 1773-1776. Part two, "Convulsions from Below," analyzes military and diplomatic events, the potential for social revolution, the nationalists' role in the Confederation, and the framing and ratification of the Constitution. As Martin points out, "the record reveals a rebellion against British authority less committed to the implications of change than once was suspected, but in the end a revolution productive of more profound alterations in human institutions and ideals than the bulk of leaders actually wanted." (In this context, Martin's text can be supplemented by George Athan Billias, ed., The American Revolution: How Revolutionary Was It? [3rd ed.; New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1980].)

In a brief survey, there are inevitably topics and interpretive approaches which readers might wish were examined more fully. Martin's analysis of social structure and mobility in pre-Revolutionary America, for example, stresses the narrowing of opportunities, increasing numbers of urban poor, and the perception that British policies would constrict even further the choices available to many Americans. Unfortunately, this hypothesis can be reduced to simplistic determinism by unwary students. Martin is certainly sensitive to historiographical issues, as his footnotes and excellent bibliographical notes attest, but parts of the text should be supplemented by additional materials. For example, Patrick Henry emerges as a pivotal figure in Virginia, a man who spoke to a generation for whom "the gap between expectations and the possible range of personal achievements was taking on an ominous meaning." Other leaders became revolutionaries for different reasons--for example, Thomas Jefferson or George Mason--and their careers require treatment in order to reveal the complexity of motivation.

The text's three maps and 63 black-and-white illustrations deserve comment. The map of North America in 1763, for example, provides valuable data: British and Spanish possessions, the Proclamation Line, boundary lines, major rivers, but only seven cities. Additional information would make this map more useful: for example, population densities, regional economies, ethnic and racial distributions, religious diversity and concentration, additional towns and cities (e.g., Williamsburg), and the various forms of colonial government. The illustrations include cartoons, paintings, broadsides, and portraits of British and American statesmen and soldiers. In some cases the quality of the reproduction and the integration of the illustrations into the text are poor. Thus, the indistinct printing on William Faden's 1775 plan of Boston renders it virtually useless. John Trumbull's Battle of Bunker's Hill and Declaration of Independence are fine examples of history painting, but the text ignores the iconography of the Revolution. The text's eight lines on New York's ratification of the Constitution do not

allude to the drama and pageantry apparent in the full-page illustration of a pro-Constitution parade dominated by a float, "Hamilton," bearing dignitaries aboard a three-masted warship.

Despite these limitations, In the Course of Human Events should be welcomed and widely adopted, for Martin writes well, his judgments are informed by the most recent literature on the Revolution, and the book's brevity allows--indeed, requires--the use of supplmentary readings.

College of the Holy Cross Ross W. Beales, Jr.

Arthur S. Link. Woodrow Wilson: Revolution, War and Peace. Arlington Heights, Illinois: AHM Publishing Corporation, 1979. Pp. vii, 138. Cloth, $9.95; paper, $5.95.

Originally intending to revise Wilson the Diplomatist (1957), Arthur Link decided instead to write "substantially a new book with new themes." Given the title, readers may expect more than the book offers, for there is little on revolution and less on Wilson's concept of world order beyond his idealistic hopes for self-determination and collective security.

What we get is a remarkably brief, closely-argued diplomatic history of Wilson's role during World War I, the peace conference, and the ratification battle. Conceding little to revisionist critics, the dean of Wilson scholars still holds that liberal democratic ideals motivated Wilson's policies. Before American intervention, Wilson sought to restore peace with evenhanded policies toward all belligerents, and at Paris he succeeded more than he failed in obtaining the "liberal peace program." Even so, Link offers a curiously qualified judgment that the settlement created "a new international order that functioned reasonably well, relatively speaking."

The book is readable and will give most students new insights. For example, it was a major German blunder to attack all shipping and bring the United States into the war, because in the last quarter of 1916, submarines sank a million tons of armed merchant ships without protest from Wilson. Link's balanced treatment of the treaty debate shows that important disagreements on principle outweighed personal and partisan differences, yet he also notes that Wilson's illness "gravely impaired his perceptions of political reality and was probably the principal cause of his strategic errors."

Nevertheless, the book's limited scope may disappoint brighter students. Many will wish the brief discussion of revolution went beyond assertions that Wilson favored self-determination for Mexico and Russia and "was the first effective anti-imperialist statesman of the twentieth century." They will question the claim that Wilson believed America stood for a "radical affirmation of equality" and wonder what it meant to qualify people's right to self-determination "only by their capacity to exercise it responsibly." Further, while Link acknowledges Wilson's awareness of the importance of exports and foreign investments for American prosperity, he seldom relates diplomacy to economic interest.

In short, the book gives an excellent summary of the details of diplomacy but slights the larger questions our best students should raise.

Eastern Oregon State College Charles Coate

Daniel Snowman. America Since 1920. Exeter, New Hampshire: Heinemann Educational Books, Inc., 1978. Pp. ix, 246. Cloth, $17.95; paper, $6.75.

Daniel Snowman has written a sprightly interpretive overview of recent United States history. America Since 1920 is distinguished by Snowman's focus on social history as his major interpretive strand, his ability to achieve minor masterpieces of textual compression without loss of clarity or content, and the fresh perspectives produced by his unobtrusive but nonetheless obvious stance as a foreign observer.

More than half of the book deals with the period since 1940, the twenties and thirties each being dispatched in single chapters. Major foreign policy developments for the entire period are summarized in another early chapter. Four additional chapters, including a summary overview, complete the volume.

The major interpretive theme is the quest for "unity and stability" within a diverse society characterized by recurring and "potentially disruptive" conflicts. Thus, Snowman portrays the 1920s as an era of "contrasts and tensions" counterbalanced by "attempts to reduce social tensions" of varying intelligence and effectiveness. Deftly summarizing the complex developments of the New Deal era, Snowman adds that one of FDR's principal contributions was his attempt to build "a sense of community within a huge democratic industrial society." Snowman's approach to the forties and fifties is particularly fresh; compressing the two decades into a single chapter, he creatively explores relationships between the inevitable wartime search for unity and the highly-touted tendency towards "conformity" in the fifties. The unrest of the sixties is attributed to a growing concern about the erosion of human values in an impersonal society as well as to underlying demographic changes, the disaster of Watergate to the lamentable actions of public officials whose genuine concern about the possible consequences of public discord in time of war blinded them to the threat to constitutional government represented by their actions.

Potentially one of the most valuable contributions of America Since 1920 is Snowman's critique of United States foreign policy, since few students are likely to be aware of foreign perceptions of that policy. Although Snowman's conclusions are sound, the harshness of some of his judgements may surprise some readers.

Unfortunately, despite Snowman's largely successful effort to offer balanced interpretations of major issues, several chapters are marred by careless generalizations which may arouse understandable resentments among student readers. Snowman, for example, is distressingly uncritical of the immigration restriction legislation of 1924 and is simplistic in his castigation of suburbia. Particularly to be regretted are some of his generalizations about the values of black urban dwellers in the 1960s. Many instructors may forego adoption of America Since 1920 as a text in order to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings.

Ursinus College Marvin Reed