

BOOK REVIEWS

Harry V. Jaffa. Crisis of the House Divided: An Interpretation of the Issues in the Lincoln-Douglas Debates. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982. Pp. 451. Paper, \$9.95.

Originally published in 1959, this reprint of Harry Jaffa's Crisis of the House Divided is no mere narrative or rehashing of what Lincoln and Douglas said in 1858. On the contrary, the book is an in-depth and searching analysis of the issues that were confronted and ideas expounded upon during the great debates.

Jaffa, a professor of political philosophy, maintains that the two men had consistent, significant, and fundamentally opposing political principles that underlay their campaign addresses. Dividing his chapters under two headings ("The Case for Douglas" and "The Case for Lincoln"), Jaffa gives full treatment to both men, going so far as to portray the Little Giant as a statesman of vision and integrity. Douglas, proclaiming his doctrine of popular sovereignty, was the perfect embodiment of that principle of self-government that Lincoln immortalized in his Gettysburg Address. Lincoln, on the other hand, conceived of American democracy as something more than government of the people, by the people, and for the people. "It was a government of, by, and for a people dedicated to a certain proposition," argues Jaffa. As the author notes, Lincoln believed all men are created equal, but the promise of equality imposed restrictions upon the full exercise of popular sovereignty, since there were rights that not even a majority should infringe. Popular sovereignty could not, in Lincoln's view, justify a wrong like the extension of slavery into the territories.

Jaffa reminds his readers that Lincoln and Douglas could be inconsistent and had their blind spots. Douglas privately condemned slavery, yet publicly protested that he did not care whether it was voted up or down. Lincoln strongly opposed nativism in his private letters, but maintained a cautious silence on the Know-Nothing issue in his public utterances.

Many of Jaffa's ideas were fresh and provocative in 1959, striking at the heart of consensus interpretation then. But the book has limited classroom application. The narrative is tiresomely repetitious, and the organization is at times all but impossible to follow. Often Jaffa seems to write sentences merely to obscure his meaning--e.g.:

If Lincoln was not a fanatic or agitator . . . , it is indubitable that he, more than any man, helped produce the situation in which fanaticism and agitation could do their deadly work. To say that Lincoln did so, not for a substantial good that might not otherwise have been attained, but only to keep alive a "talking point," a point that might and did "talk" the country into fratricidal war, is to give him a character that, in the profundity of its immortality, is beyond treason.

Instructors even in upper-division courses in Civil War and Reconstruction will have difficulty effectively using Jaffa's sober, lengthy, and at times confusing political analysis. The book is more properly suited for a senior honors group, a class in American political thought, or a graduate seminar in American intellectual history. Students without solid backgrounds in history and political philosophy will experience their own crisis in attempting to digest this book.

Arthur S. Link and Richard L. McCormick. Progressivism. Arlington Heights, Illinois: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1983. Pp. ix, 149. Paper, \$6.95.

Professors Arthur S. Link and Richard L. McCormick have written a book which shows what can be done when scholars are thoroughly familiar with their material and able to use it with ease and grace.

Chapter I, "Progressivism in History," is a general introduction to progressivism and progressives, especially the origins of the latter and the general ideas of the former. In Chapter II, "A Transformation of Politics and Government," the movement is traced from city and state origins to the national level. The rise of interest groups and the broadening and fundamentally changed role of government are emphasized. The third chapter, "Social Justice and Social Control," argues that while progressives aimed to achieve both of these, control rather than justice was often the result, especially among the "coercive progressives," one of the three types of progressives analyzed--the "social progressives" and the "reforming professionals" are the other two. Chapter IV, "Epilogue: The Decline and Endurance of Progressivism," notes the survival of progressivism in the 1920s, its effect on the New Deal, and its importance down to the present. The work concludes with a bibliographical essay which, like the rest of the book, is wide-ranging and up-to-date, and unlike many other such essays is in itself readable.

Link and McCormick have covered a vast area, compressing much information into a short space with no sense of the scissors-and-paste technique. Students should be stimulated to read more deeply; teachers familiar with the period and the literature will be impressed, perhaps dismayed, at how well the authors summarize in a clear paragraph or two what it takes some of us several weeks to get through in class.

Throughout there is skillful interweaving of general concepts, specific points, interesting information, and historiography. One comes upon a familiar idea or point with the feeling that it belongs and should be where it is, not that it is trite and obvious. Also, especially in Chapters III and IV, there is thoughtful analysis. The authors emphasize the achievements and failures of progressivism and the long-range consequences of what they see as a reform movement of great and lasting value. The progressives did not solve all the problems they tackled, but that was in part because they aimed so high and tackled so many problems. Finally, "no other generation of Americans has done conspicuously better in addressing the political, economic, and social conditions which it faced" (118).

The work achieves the aim of the series, to be useful for survey and period courses, though it seems to this writer that the book would be most effective in upper-level undergraduate courses because it presumes a knowledge of the era often not possessed by students in the survey course. In short, this is a comprehensive, gracefully-written, thoughtful view of an important era, and a valuable addition to a well-edited series.

Johnson State College

Paul L. Silver

William H. Chafe and Harvard Sitkoff, eds. A History of Our Time: Readings on Postwar America. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983. Pp. xiii, 386. Paper, \$10.95.

This is an excellent book of readings. The areas covered include sections (each with its own introduction) on: "The Sources of the Cold War;" "The Cold War at Home;" "The Politics of the Affluent Society;" "The Black

Struggle;" "The Challenge to Sexism;" "Vietnam;" "Years of Polarization;" "Politics of the 1970s and 1980s;" and "Where Do We Go from Here?"

Included within these topical groupings are three or four interpretive articles along with some source materials (e.g. Port Huron Statement) and pieces written by historical figures (e.g. Jimmy Carter's "America's Crisis of Confidence"). Among the myriad of articles (35 in all), all reprints of previously published material, the quality is uniformly high. The editors' selections, furthermore, are representative of the varied viewpoints held by academicians and the media.

Some of the better articles (in my judgment) include "America in Our Time," an insightful and imaginative essay by British journalist Godfrey Hodgson; Martin J. Sherwin, "The Atomic Bomb and the Origins of the Cold War;" Harvard Sitkoff, "The Preconditions for Racial Change;" William Chafe, "Social Change and the American Women;" John Garry Clifford, "Vietnam in Historical Perspective;" Alan Baron, "The 1980 Election;" Kevin Phillips, "The Balkanization of America;" and Robert Heilbroner's philosophical observations in "Reflections on the Human Prospect."

In toto these articles are stimulating and, at times, provocative. Subjects such as Vietnam, civil rights, and radicalism are in themselves controversial and the historian's own political and ideological predilections influence his/her interpretive framework. One is amazed how the same set of facts about the same historical subject produces such varied critiques. Readers, no doubt, will agree or disagree with the conclusions of certain articles depending upon their own personal biases.

This book of readings seems best suited for graduate students or undergraduates well versed in history. The high level of logic and sophisticated (sometimes subtle) arguments will not be appreciated or understood by high school students unless they are well prepared for this kind of historical literature. It has long been my opinion that teachers of history should introduce students into the intricacies of historical interpretation lest they fall into the error of thinking that the first book they read about a given subject is the definitive one. This book of readings will dislodge any notion students may have that the simple facts are history. They will come to know that written history results only after historians interpret facts and that the reconstructed result is history. These readings can be used to introduce students to the relative nature of history and, thus, prepare them for the varied accounts of past or present events they will encounter as adults.

Illinois State University

Edward L. Schapsmeier

Robert S. McElvaine, ed. Down & Out in the Great Depression: Letters from the "Forgotten Man." Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1983. Pp. xvii, 251. Cloth, \$23.00; Paper, \$8.95.

A perennial problem in teaching the Great Depression to survey students, most of whom have grown up in relatively affluent times, is transmitting a sense of the desperation of the period. A lecture rarely does the job. Most films give only fleeting attention to the human suffering of the 1930s. Traditional textbooks are even less useful. Robert McElvaine's Down & Out in the Great Depression provides a better way. From the mammoth collection of letters to the Roosevelts and other government figures, the editor has chosen 173 which articulate, often in the broken grammar of the dispossessed, the misery of the times. They are arranged (somewhat artificially, by McElvaine's

own admission) into thirteen categories: reactions to President Hoover and economic breakdown, middle-class hardship, rural depression, blacks, the elderly, children, attitudes toward relief, conservatives, the desperate, the cynical, the rebellious, the unconvinced, and those who viewed Roosevelt as a "savior."

While we often tell students that the wealthy hated Roosevelt, it soon becomes clear from reading this book that some of the middle class and poor were not enamored of him either. To some, he was simply another of the uncaring rich. More charitably, many correspondents believed that, if the President "only knew" how bad conditions were, he would provide more help. Interestingly, some letter writers rail against the graft and inefficiency of New Deal agencies such as the WPA while holding Roosevelt himself blameless. Not surprisingly, there was strong support for the Townsend plan.

But by far the majority admired and supported Roosevelt; he is described as a "saint," a "savior," a "personal friend." "You are the only President who ever gave a thought to the poor," said a Connecticut writer. And by 1935 a New York businessman was convinced: "I hope God will forgive me for voting for Hoover. Roosevelt is the greatest leader since Jesus Christ."

The editor, a member of the history department at Millsaps College, provides a brief but lucid introduction to the New Deal and to the letters he has reproduced. This volume provides a richness in the study of American attitudes in the thirties not previously seen. An occasional gem appears. A Michigan woman, arguing for the increase of purchasing power that the Townsend plan would provide, wrote: "A man's intelligence [sic] is judged by the rapidity by which he can adjust himself to a new situation & a nation's intelligence is judged by the rapidity its leaders can adjust themselves to a new order.--We are in a new era or order." No history instructor could put it better.

Mountain View College

William F. Mugleston

G. de Bertier de Sauvigny and David H. Pinkney. History of France. Revised and Enlarged Edition. Arlington Heights, Illinois: The Forum Press, 1983. Pp. 436. Cloth, \$28.50; Paper, \$17.95.

This comprehensive text, written by France's leading scholar on the Bourbon restoration and by an American historian of modern European society, covers French history from the time of the pre-Gallic Neolithic settlers to the 1981 election of the Socialist, François Mitterand, as the Fifth Republic's third president. In short chapters, averaging thirteen pages in length, the text focuses on political developments in France. Social and economic history gets some, but not adequate, attention. Cultural, artistic, and intellectual achievements receive brief mention, often just a listing of the achievers.

The book proceeds on the assumption that the facts speak mostly for themselves. The early chapters are laced with dynastic charts, and the later ones illustrate developments with tables and graphs. Such questions as why the French invasions of Italy in the late 15th century led to the modern state or why the French Revolution burst upon the somnolent Old Regime in 1789 users of this book will have to address on their own. Interpretations do tend to be stronger in the 19th century, though, where both authors have their specialty. Bertier de Sauvigny deliberately downplays his pro-monarchist, pro-Catholic sympathies in most of his treatment of the material, but one can occasionally see them between the lines. More noticeable is the strong nationalist stand on international issues. Bertier thinks Napoleon was right

in his struggle against Britain, faintly blames Britain and the United States for not supporting France's style of mutual security after 1918, and seems to approve De Gaulle's attempt to keep Britain out of the European Common Market in the 1960s. On these issues, and some others, teachers using this book will want to inject some objectivity.

But overall, this History of France emphasizes unembellished facts to the neglect of explaining what they mean. Given the stringencies of covering all of France's history in less than 400 pages, that perhaps was inevitable. In a few places there are typographical errors, which an alert teacher of French history will easily correct. This text would be most useful in a college-level survey history of France, serving as the skeleton on which the rich history of a unique people could be embodied.

West Georgia College

W. Benjamin Kennedy

Brian Catchpole. A Map History of the Modern World. London and Exeter: Heinemann Educational Books, Ltd., 1982. Third Edition. Pp. 169. Paper, \$6.50.

At a time when more and more textbooks resemble the proverbial horse put together by committee (it came out a camel), it is a pleasure to read one which is both accessible to secondary school students and clearly reflects one knowledgeable person's sensibility and historical perspective. The promise of maps and other visual aids directly related to text and accompanying each small unit of discussion--always sorely needed--is a mouth-watering one, too. Delivering on these two promises, however, leads the book's strengths to determine its weaknesses as well.

Its greatest virtue is its unflinchingly literate presentation of material. Only a virtuoso could summarize what purports to be all the world's history from 1900 to 1982 (this new third edition bringing Poland and Afghanistan up to date) in what amounts to about 80 pages of print (the format limits text to the left side of one page, maps on the right for each of the book's some 75 chapters). The language is crisp and bright:

The horror of the First World War could not be eradicated from the minds of those who had survived. Many clamoured for revenge on the Germans and for the Kaiser to be hanged. Hardship and misery remained on after the war, for now a deadly influenza epidemic was harrying the undernourished populations in the countries of the vanquished and victor alike.

Clearly not for the faint of heart who choose reading level by syllable count alone!

This strength--a sure hand with the broad sweep of events--contributes to the book's chief limitation: too much crammed into too little space. In any such situation, the author's choices for emphasis can be questioned. While Catchpole claims to be explaining the effects of large scale modern organization of political and economic resources, what he really had presented is a history of large scale diplomatic and military maneuvering. Over one third of the book's first half is about war, and the index's largest entries are for battles and treaties. This is old-style great event history with a vengeance, though a few nods are tossed here and there to hunger, refugee, and energy problems.

American readers will find his perspective on Soviet-U.S. relations a bit odd, too. The "internal problems of the modern states" section features "radicalism" and the problems of the poor for America and an innocuous bit about economic striving for the U.S.S.R. Sketchy--to say the least. Soviet sections in general suffer from cursory treatment. Marx is mentioned once; there is no mention of the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact despite all the other war hoopla, and no Sakharov or Solzhenitsyn either. Perhaps this is just another quirky Britishism--like the use of petrol for gasoline or the necessary inclusion of the 1942 invasion of Dieppe--but it illustrates the limitations of one man's reach for world history, and might explain why we're stuck with so many camels these days.

Thayer Academy

Dan Levinson

Glenn E. Perry. The Middle East: Fourteen Islamic Centuries. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1983. Pp. xv, 350. Paper, \$15.95.

Glenn E. Perry's text has many features which encourage its use for undergraduate instruction in Middle East history. With a clear, spare style, the author takes the reader through the ancient Middle East, Islamic origins, growth and florescence of the civilization through the Ummayyad and Abbasid periods, including Greek influences and the emergence of Persian culture. Shi-ism, Sufism, Mutazilism, and the synthesizing roles of Al-Ashari and Al-Ghazzali are explained clearly. Late medieval events and the rise of the Osmanlis are followed by the imperialist period and its effects to 1914. Perry brings out the social dislocations caused by World War I; his descriptions of the secret treaties, British negotiations with Hashimites and Zionists, and the humiliation of Turkey, are informative on the roots of present problems. The account of the 1920s and 1930s closes with an interesting evaluation of "European Style Parliamentary Government in the Arab World." Then follow reviews of the World War II situation, postwar withdrawals of Britain and France, the rise of Nasser, the 1956 Suez crisis, Arab-Israeli conflicts, and the Iranian unrest under the Shah. Closing chapters discuss the continuing troubles of Turkey, the Egyptian-Israeli peace, and the Khomeini movement in Iran. The book ends with a very helpful bibliographic essay. The opening chapter's discussion of basic geography and ancient history gives an underlying tone, which is maintained throughout. This is a feeling for the Middle East, not just as an occasional problem area, but as the location of a fundamental current of civilization.

The book's conciseness will appeal to students. Chapters are not long, and sub-topics are headed in bold type. Meanings are sharpened by short conclusion sections ending each chapter. The book is compact in size, but careful reading brings out the thoroughness of coverage, within the limits of the Arabic emphasis and the author's teaching purpose. Within these limits, Perry has a marked ability to point up the "inside" of a situation. The tragedy of Mossadeq, an under-rated Sadat as a president who achieved greatness, and some surprisingly modern attitudes of the otherwise fanatic Muslim Brethren, are examples. For teaching the survey course, the text could well be supplemented by a book on Israel or another special country situation. But with its sharpness of insights and maintenance of continuity, the work in its own way will give students a feel of the Middle East as an abiding force in history.

Westmar College

Arthur Q. Larson

Bill C. Malone. Southern Music, American Music. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1979. Pp. x, 203. Cloth, \$16.00.

The title of this volume is appropriate. The book's chief focus is on the folk music of the South and on the national popular forms which emerged from it. After a chapter on early southern folk music, the volume turns to the nation's discovery of those musical forms, which in turn led to commercialization, mass marketing, and--ultimately--to the nationalization of southern music. The author emphasizes the importance of Negro spirituals and mountain ballads as the foundation for southern folk music, but he devotes most of his attention to the evolution of this music in the twentieth century, including its move to the national scene after World War I. The relationship of this music to the radio, the phonograph, and the movies receives due attention. The author reserves more than a third of his book to the post-World War II era, stressing not only the new technologies affecting American music, but also the various other influences upon that expression of American culture.

This volume discusses various forms of southern and American music, including ragtime, blues, rhythm and blues, jazz, hillbilly, Tex-Mex, Cajun, rock 'n' roll, hard rock, swing, western swing, pop, honky-tonk, white gospel, black gospel, rockabilly, bluegrass, country, country and western, progressive country, country rock, country pop, and hard country. To be sure, these discussions are brief because of the limited length of the entire volume. But Malone does a good job within his space limitations. He does not deal with these various forms in isolation but rather writes of the outgrowth of one from another, the spinoffs, the interaction, the variety, and the nuances of musical development. Furthermore, he integrates into his narrative short sketches of some of the thousands of popular singers and singing groups associated with this nation's musical heritage, and he mentions some of their more popular tunes. In addition, the author relates changing musical tastes to changing cultural mores. Malone is the foremost historian of American country music, and this little volume is a tribute to his general knowledge of southern and American music and the interaction of each with the other.

For both secondary and college instructors who are looking for a brief survey of southern music and its integration in the mainstream of American music, no more valuable volume can be found. It will be useful for lecture material and for assignment to those students who have especial interest in the history of American music.

New Mexico State University

Monroe Billington

Walter Laqueur. Europe since Hitler: The Rebirth of Europe. New York: Penguin Books, 1982. Pp. 607. Paper, \$6.95.

This work constitutes the best general treatment available on post-war Europe. Walter Laqueur's knowledge of the European scene is hard to match. His style is elegant and urbane.

Laqueur is sympathetic to Europe but pessimistic about its future. In the preface he opines: "It is difficult to envisage the emergence of a new sense of purpose until the societies of Europe awake from their present stupor and much that is rotten is swept away." But the preface was written well after the body of the text; Laqueur has not fully prepared us for such dark conclusions.

The main weakness of the book is its organization. There are 70 brief and highly specific chapters falling within five general rubrics. The chapters are not tied together, nor are they organized around general themes. The problem is accentuated due to the fact that the work was first published in 1970; but for this new edition, the author appended a 60-page summary of the 1970s. Sometimes, the book seems to be spliced together rather than constituting an organic whole; there is too much repetition and overlapping.

Laqueur's forte is political and cultural analysis; he shows less zeal in economic and social affairs. He pays some attention to the smaller nations, but not enough; in particular, his treatment of the Swedish model is insufficient. He has his bêtes noires; he is clearly no great admirer of Charles de Gaulle, for example.

None of these problems obviate the fact that this book is of high quality with respect to both substance and style. The writing of contemporary history is difficult and risky; Laqueur has demonstrated once again that the job is worth doing and can be done well.

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Steven Philip Kramer

Sydney Wood. The British Welfare State 1900-1950. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982. Pp. 48. Paper, \$3.95.

Every teacher of history struggles to make information concise and clear while at the same time trying to cover his subject thoroughly. Sydney Wood has done all of this amazingly well in his pamphlet on the British welfare state. For courses covering twentieth-century Britain or the growth of welfare systems, this pamphlet will be a useful teaching aid. The work is clearly aimed at upper-level high school to lower-level college students, and it hits the mark very accurately.

For several reasons, this work does not appear suited for advanced courses. The factual information is a broadbrush description of social conditions, welfare programs and legislation, and factors that helped or hindered welfare development. There is neither consideration of historiographical dispute nor bibliographic information.

Brevity, clarity, and breadth are well served here by the use of charts, graphs, and lists of major points of programs and legislation. Although these occasionally clutter pages, they are easy to read and contain much information. Wood picked the subjects for these figures well. He also showed skill in choosing quotations that provide a glimpse of the personalities involved with creating the welfare state while effectively illustrating a point.

The contents of the pamphlet are predictable. Wood starts with a description of English society at the beginning of the twentieth century based on the studies carried out by Charles Booth and Seebohm Rowntree. He then follows his theme chronologically through the major changes made in the welfare system in the years immediately following World War II. He is particularly effective when describing the impact of the world wars on people's expectations but does not do much with postwar disillusionment. The only problem with the narrative is that the theme of welfare development tends to get lost in the details of economic problems in the chapter on the 1930s and not enough effort is made to tie the economic details to the theme.

Fort Valley State College

Fred R. van Hartesveldt

John G. Stoessinger. Why Nations Go To War. Third Edition. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1982. Pp. xiii, 226. Cloth, \$12.95; Paper, \$6.95.

The author is a prominent American political scientist whose writings on international relations have won critical acclaim. In this book, Professor Stoessinger refuses to accept such "bloodless abstractions" as nationalism, militarism, alliance systems, and economic factors as the real cause of twentieth-century wars. These explanations, he says, "somehow always missed the human essence of the problem. After all, wars were begun by people." In his seven case studies, he looks for the "moment of truth," when "leaders crossed the threshold into war." In short, this book shows the crucial role of personality in decisions for war.

In all the cases studied, the initiation or escalation of war is laid to the self-delusions and misperceptions of political and military leaders. For example, in World War I the Austrian leaders Berchtold and von Hötendorf feared that Austria would lose prestige and status if Serbia were not punished, and failed to understand that Russia would perceive the invasion of Serbia as aggression. Meanwhile, the Kaiser's anti-Slavic prejudices led him over the brink of disaster. The leaders of all the nations involved expected the worst from their enemies and exaggerated their own power. Hitler in World War II, MacArthur in Korea, Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon in Vietnam, Yahya Khan in the Pakistan-India War of 1971, Nasser and Sadat in the "Thirty Years' War in the Holy Land," and Khomeini and Saddam Hussein in the Iraq-Iran War, all showed the same misperceptions about themselves, and about the adversary's character, intentions, and capabilities. The book is in its third edition and brings the Persian Gulf chapter up to the early 1980's when conditions bear "an eerie resemblance to Europe before the outbreak of the First World War." Finally, the author surveys the history of nuclear arms control and concludes that settlement of outstanding political differences must precede successful disarmament negotiations. Again, political leaders, not arms races or other "objective conditions," cause war.

Each chapter is extremely well written and consists of an historical overview interwoven with reminders of the author's basic premise. The reader may not entirely agree with Stoessinger's dismissal of causes other than personality in the origins of war, but the sufficiently detailed chapters provide ample material to debate this point from several angles. The book might possibly be used in freshman-level world history courses, but is better suited to upper-level undergraduate offerings that focus on twentieth-century wars. It would be an excellent source as a back-up to a survey of international relations. Selected chapters could be used in more general modern European or modern Asian history classes.

The School of the Ozarks

James A. Zabel

Richard L. Rubenstein. The Age of Triage: Fear and Hope in an Overcrowded World. Boston: Beacon Press, 1983. Pp. 301. Cloth, \$15.50.

Rubenstein's book surveys a potentially destructive problem, the creation of mass surplus populations. He claims this has been happening as technology has replaced labor or as xenophobic "tribal nationalism" has supplanted the liberal nation-state. He shows how these processes have created classes of redundant, unwanted people and how these "surplus peoples" were removed by expropriation, expulsion, deportation, neglect, starvation, and extermination. His examples describe the British Enclosure Laws, the Irish famine, the Armenian massacres, the destruction of the Kulaks, the Holocaust, the boat people expelled from Vietnam, and the Khmer Rouge upheavals in Kampuchea.

An unusual aspect of The Age of Triage is the way Rubenstein treats the Holocaust. Instead of the usual procedure of treating it as the culmination of increasingly acrid antisemitism, he shows it as one aspect of growing nihilism towards all "surplus peoples." He thus places the Nazi destruction of the European Jews within the mainstream of modern historical movement.

Rubenstein's solution to the problem of the creating and disposing of unwanted "surplus peoples" for one reason or another is messianic. It is a plea for the universal adoption of an extra-rational humanistic religious transformation. His plea has resonance with the ecumenical dimensions of Judaism and with the non-theistic religions of the East. He makes clear that his plea is a hope and not an exhortation to religious militancy.

The Age of Triage is an important book and ought to be widely read. I have no hope that Rubenstein's showing the destructiveness of the parallel between modernization and nihilism will change the world or even be believed by everyone. His pessimism may not even be universally applicable. Still, the message is a valuable and perhaps a necessary one.

The Age of Triage is written clearly enough to be used at the secondary level, and yet it has a message that should be of interest to graduate scholars. Through Rubenstein's book, students at all levels can easily become acquainted with a problem that may be developing as an increasing peril to many of the populations of the world.

Rubenstein may be unfairly conflating the murderous rampages of tribal nationalists with the milder forms of population removal arising from technological innovations. Also, his corrective of a world-wide resurgence of religious empathy may well be overly optimistic. Yet, despite these reservations, The Age of Triage ought to be read by everyone, in the hope that understanding might generate a concern for humanity.

This book also provides relevance and significance to material that students often tend to view as "dry as dust" history.

Empire State College

Reuben Garner

Douglas A. Noverr and Lawrence E. Ziewacz. The Games They Played: Sports in American History, 1865-1980. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, Inc., 1983. Pp. vii, 423. Cloth, \$34.95.

After an excellent introductory essay on the 19th-century origins of modern sport, this book marches us decade-by-decade through this century. Each chapter opens with an overview essay (good ones for the 1920s, 1950s, and 1970s; weak ones for the 1930s and 1940s), which is followed by sections--some short, some long--on individual sports.

There are some fundamental problems. The authors set an impossible task for themselves: covering the development of American sports in broad strokes and providing detailed descriptions of individual sports in each era. In the end, they do not succeed at either. The interpretive essays, with some expansion, would have made a useful monograph. They are teamed, however, with page after page of tedious and extraneous detail on individual athletes, contests, and records. The result is too often a mere chronicle that one prefers to skim.

One looks in vain for adequate exposition of major points. Tighter editing would have helped, but the real problem is that Noverr and Ziewacz

never chose between analysis and encyclopedia and so they have something of both but an unsatisfying mixture.

The authors' choices of what to include are repeatedly puzzling. Space permits only two examples: there are several paragraphs on how Australia produced tennis champions but almost nothing on the impact of television on sport; and there is no discussion of the "balkanization" of boxing championships but a wasted paragraph (370) on a minor sprinter.

I also quarrel with the choice of sports themselves. The authors covered sports that "developed in uniquely American ways or had American origins," and so they exclude some--hockey and bowling, in particular--that should have been included for completeness. (They do include golf and tennis, though, and there are regular sections on the Olympics.)

The book has merits, among them good vignettes and generally effective writing. It makes earnest efforts to include black athletes and sports throughout, although the strain of doing so sometimes shows. There is a good bibliography (but an unreliable index).

Some judgments raised my eyebrows. For instance, baseball is described as "irrelevant" in a time of change in the 1960s, but the 1967 Red Sox are depicted as diverting attention from major world and domestic concerns--and the 1960s are later said to be the last stable period for baseball.

This book may be useful if you are looking for something that combines (some) overview with (considerable) detail, but I doubt its usefulness in a course on sport. It would be a handy one-volume work for the library, but I suspect that few students would sit through it.

Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education

Donn C. Neal

James B. Gardner and George Rollie Adams, eds. Ordinary People and Everyday Life: Perspectives on the New Social History. Nashville: The American Association for State and Local History, 1983. Pp. viii, 215. Cloth, \$17.95.

These nine essays by noted social historians will be useful for teachers at both the college and secondary levels and suggestive of potential avenues for student research. Collectively these pieces illustrate the distinctive concerns of the "new" social historians: a desire to write history "from the bottom up," extensive use of quantifiable data, a concern for general theory, and impatience with dates and events as opposed to identification of trends measured in decades or centuries. Unfortunately this excellent collection is not well suited for use as collateral reading in survey courses, since the authors assume knowledge both of historical trends and scholarly literature.

Surveying the literature on race and ethnicity, Howard N. Rabinowitz shows that recent scholarship has rejected the earlier notion that migration, oppression, and Americanization stripped racial and ethnic groups of traditional values and institutions. Instead, "the new social history not only finds evidence of strong ethnic and racial identification, but usually celebrates it, as well, though often expressing dismay at the frequent examples of inequality among groups." A similar understanding informs David Brody's argument that E.P. Thompson's influential concept of a unified English working class culture cannot serve as a model for studies of the ethnically, racially, and religiously diverse American populace.

Elizabeth H. Pleck offers an instructive brief for her view that "women's history" is misleadingly labeled, since its proper concern is the "evolution of gender, the cultural definition of behavior appropriate to both sexes." Maris A. Vinovskis explores the possibilities of "life-course analysis" in family history. Kathleen Neils Conzen attempts a definition of urban history, and Robert P. Swierenga urges American historians to re-examine their urban prejudices and write about "the demise of rural life and institutions in the manner of the Annales historians."

Those readers who share with the several authors a longing for the integration of the new social history into a larger synthesis of historical interpretation will not find their hopes realized here. Samuel P. Hays does explore attempts to integrate social history into political history, and Barbara G. and Gary Carson provide a useful hint when they amend Peter Stearns' assertion in his lead essay that social historians are concerned with "the ordinary activities of ordinary people." "Social history worth its salt," urge the Carsons, "deals with ordinary people as well as, not rather than, the elite, and with everyday activities no less than world class events."

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