

by the many readings dealing with contemporary issues such as apartheid and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Many of the readings, however, are not especially of high literary quality and do not contain as much interesting content as it would be possible to find, a task the editors might concentrate upon in preparing a second edition of the work. For one thing, it might help if the collection had more biographical readings, and the editors might also want to include some articles from popular, yet scholarly, magazines.

The introductions to the various topics are informative, accurate, and extremely well written. From a pedagogical perspective, these introductions should be most helpful in providing students with a general understanding of significant topics, promoting what Eric D. Hirsch refers to as "cultural literacy."

Courses in world history are becoming more and more popular in colleges and universities. A textbook alone tends to be somewhat bare, and a good anthology, such as this one, should make the course more worthwhile to the average student. In the future, perhaps, teachers of world history will have the diversity of choice that is found in the field of American history.

Mount Senario College

Thomas T. Lewis

**Glenn Blackburn.** *The West and the World Since 1945.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989. Second Edition. Pp. viii, 166. Paper, \$13.35.

**Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski.** *The World Since 1945: Politics, War & Revolution in the Nuclear Age.* Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1988. Pp. vii, 389. Cloth, \$35.00; paper, \$22.50.

Professor Blackburn focuses this survey around four themes: the conflict between two superpowers; prosperity in the western nations; the third world; and intellectual and spiritual issues in a technological age. This essay could be used in high school as a supplementary text on the contemporary western world, but its brevity makes it inappropriate either as a core text for undergraduate courses or as a supplemental text for a western civilization course. Most textbooks on western civilization devote more time to the topics covered here only perfunctorily. For example, the summit conferences at Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam are dealt with in one sentence. The author writes clearly and distinctly but all too briefly. The format occasionally leads the writer to state the obvious: "Material prosperity is necessary to the good life," and "Ethical behavior is part of a good life." The Greek chorus approach of stating the themes and then repeating those themes in the chapter could assist a high school student. The illustrations are well chosen and the bibliographical essays at the end of the book well written.

By contrast, the work by Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski ignores certain contemporary issues, such as the feminist movement, which Blackburn discusses. It slights most economic and social questions and focuses almost exclusively on diplomatic and political developments. What they do, they do well. The writers manage to present both sides of a number of fairly controversial issues. They even avoid a western world or US centered approach and devote a substantial portion of the book to developments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The book was intended for and would be particularly effective in an introductory course on International Relations. It is logically organized and well written and centers both thematically and chronologically around certain topics: the origins of the cold war; nationalism and the end of colonialism; the shifting sands of global power; the third world; and dilemmas of the 1980s. The introduction to each section, which integrates the material and outlines the themes, might annoy the good student and



assist the poor one. Particularly useful are a list of recommended readings, clearly produced pictures, and well chosen maps. Both books are mercifully free of jargon and printing errors.

University of Montana

Linda Frey

**Trevor Rowley.** *The High Middle Ages, 1200-1550.* London and New York: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1986. Pp. xv, 248. Cloth, \$39.95.

**Dulcie Duke.** *The Growth of a Medieval Town.* Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1988. Pp. 47. Paper, \$4.95.

**Anne Boyd.** *Life in a Medieval Monastery.* Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987. Pp. 48. Paper, \$4.95.

The two topic pamphlets published by Cambridge are reissues of earlier ones with new titles. Duke's work was originally "Lincoln: the growth of a medieval town" and Boyd's "The Monks of Durham." Both are substantially the same, but the quality of the illustrations is vastly improved due to better printing techniques developed since the early 1970s. Both of these pamphlets demonstrate what British authors and publishers do best: utilize the rich historical resources at their command by integrating maps, photos, charts, and sketches with relevant text. While the text is aimed at a secondary audience, these pamphlets are excellent resources at any level. The work on towns is more successful because of the topic; it traces the development of a medieval town (Lincoln) from the Conquest to the period of the War of the Roses. Social, political, military, economic, and religious aspects are all given some attention with the brief text superbly augmented by the illustrative material. Boyd's work is less successful because the topic of monastic life is not an easy one to handle in such few pages, but she makes a valiant effort to explain how monks lived, the various offices and their functions, and the physical setting, which at Durham is spectacular. Both of these pamphlets are useful resources for both teacher and student.

The Rowley book is part of a series entitled "The Making of Britain" that focuses on the broad theme of man's interaction with his environment. The series attempts to counteract what the general editor feels is the mistaken nineteenth-century notion of progress and, in particular, a sense of medieval development. By looking at historical evidence from an archeological perspective the series and the volume attempt to demonstrate a more complex view of regional and local change; it also is somewhat revisionary by extending the end of the medieval period to 1550 A.D., though in the book the 1530s are the end. Rowley wants to demonstrate "the ways in which power and wealth found their expression through buildings, topography, and the landscape of medieval England and Wales." Like the previously mentioned works, this volume uses maps, photographs, and sketches to supplement and enhance the text, though with uneven results. Some of the sketch maps are poorly or at least not clearly done and in general would only be of help if you had a first-rate atlas or a number of Ordnance Survey maps available.

The text itself varies from intense detail on rather small areas to sweeping statements on broad issues that are sometimes contradicted at other points. The variation and the weaknesses are especially true in dealing with ecclesiastical history. The strength of the book lies in the amount of evidence not usually examined in such detail; the weakness lies in the lack of interpretation and analysis. This book is hard to place in terms of usefulness since it demands a fairly high degree of knowledge about the British Isles to make it useable. The chapters on medieval industry, trade and commerce, woodlands, forests and