

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.

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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

parks, and the development of medieval villages are good resources for faculty or for research papers, though the latter aspect is limited by the lack of footnotes. The bibliography is minimal but does note the works of Colin Platt that would be of use to secondary and collegiate readers.

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Roland N. Stromberg. *Europe in the Twentieth Century*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1988. Second edition. Pp. xi, 481. Paper, \$29.00.

Originally published in 1980, the second edition of this excellent text adds a chapter to bring the story up to date chronologically, slightly revises the organization, and makes a few minor corrections. Otherwise, it remains essentially the same as the original and continues to be distinguished from its competitors in a number of ways. First, with the exception of generally separate discussions of the Soviet Union, Stromberg succeeds in presenting a synthetic treatment of Europe far more successfully than most other textbook writers. To be sure, there are some drawbacks to this approach. The account of politics is not quite as full as is ordinarily the case and domestic developments, especially in Great Britain, are given insufficient attention.

As one might expect from the author of *European Intellectual History Since 1789*, now in its fourth edition, Stromberg is most effective in relating cultural and intellectual developments to the major political, economic, and military events of the century. The chapter on culture and thought in the 1920s, for which Stromberg appropriates Walter Lippmann's apt phrase, "the dissolution of the ancestral order," is outstanding. Far more than a mere catalog of writers, artists, and scientists, it relates the diverse cultural directions of the decade to the loss of prewar confidence in progress and in the possibility of certitude. Sections on the literature and thought of the depression, post-war thought of the late forties and fifties, and ideological twists of the sixties and seventies are almost as distinguished.

The text is well-written, with a deliberate attempt to explain the foreign by reference to the familiar and by occasional use of the colloquial. This device is sometimes successful, as in the author's comparison of the mass hysteria induced by extravagant Nazi ceremonies with the more recent phenomenon of the rock concert and the characterization of the effective manipulation of such mass events as "pop politics." Less effective is the description of the Dreyfus case as "a kind of Gallic Watergate and Alger Hiss case rolled into one." Stromberg's work is all the more engaging for his willingness to question some of the generalizations that are so frequently encountered, such as the unqualified and simplistic condemnation of nationalism as being responsible for World War I. At the same time, however, he presents some arguments that are themselves open to question. Is it really likely that the Austrians would have rejected the *Anschluss* had a plebiscite been held before Hitler's invasion? Does the available evidence support the suggestion that Churchill might well have responded to Hitler's peace overtures had he had accurate information about Germany's military strength and a more realistic estimate of the time that would elapse before America entered the war? Is it appropriate, given the scholarship on the subject, to leave hanging the accusation that Roosevelt might have connived in America's entry into the war by provoking a Japanese attack? More convincingly, Stromberg dismisses the Cold War revisionists and suggests that the "balance of terror" has in fact worked in preventing a nuclear conflict. Stromberg characterizes de Gaulle as "one of the century's greatest men," and provides an admirable treatment of post-war Europe, though it is a bit too compressed on decolonization.