

who take for granted the often easy interaction between youth of both races, *Separate Pasts* unveils a time and a world not so long ago that in fact has not entirely died.

Mountain View College

William F. Mugleston

Allen Guttman. *A Whole New Ball Game: An Interpretation of American Sports*. Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1988. Pp. x, 233. Cloth, \$24.95; paper, \$10.95.

For Jacques Barzun, to understand baseball was to understand America. Although Barzun might have exaggerated his point, baseball and sports do reflect a great deal about our society. Lately, the undeniable presence of sports in everyday American life has attracted the attention of many scholars, often resulting in condemnatory critiques of sports as corruptive and alienating.

In contrast to these outcries, Professor Allen Guttman of Amherst offers a moderate and thoughtful view in his latest of a series of books dealing with sports, *A Whole New Ball Game: An Interpretation of American Sports*. Guttman's "interpretation" provides both an outline of the development of modern American sports and an evaluation of the current state of sports in America, at all times maintaining a realistic and moderate stance.

The study begins with Guttman's well accepted argument that modern sports, in this case American sports, developed along Weberian lines from religious ritual in pre-modern times to the secular, bureaucratic institutions of today. The sports of the American Indian are introduced as examples of pre-modern activity dominated by religious ritual and symbolism. Puritan and early Southern sports are then dealt with as parts of an initial, although not complete, movement toward modernization. For Guttman, modern sport arrives in earnest with baseball and finds its "prototypical" form in the perfectly rational and scientific game of basketball.

While Guttman's vision of modern day sports is essentially positive, the fact that they are laden with problems and contradictions is not overlooked. The continued difficulties and restraints that minorities and women often encounter in the sporting world are dealt with sympathetically. What Guttman refers to as the "cocaine culture" surrounding modern athletes is also explored.

The author's toughest criticism, however, is aimed at intercollegiate sports, which Guttman quite rightly describes as "the academic equivalent of the international arms race." Here Guttman leaves his pragmatic base and suggests that colleges give up their profitable semi-professional teams and turn them into a private club system, as is the practice in West Germany.

At his best when chronicling and repudiating Marxist attacks on sport as an exploitative mechanism of modern society, Guttman concedes that while modern sports can enslave, it can also liberate. Guttman points to evidence that female athletes tend to have higher levels of self-esteem than non-athletic females. Black athletes have overcome racism to such a degree that they now come close to dominating some sports. Millions of Americans share in the exhilaration and enjoyment of sports, and virtually none of these participants or spectators find their experiences dehumanizing or alienating.

For better or for worse, modern sports will remain with us. Guttman recognizes this, and has the patience and maturity to urge us to enjoy its good points, while at the same time pushing for much needed reforms.

As a tool in the classroom, Guttman's book would be ideal for the sort of "Sport and Modern Society" course begun by the late Robert Wheeler at the University of

Southern California. With its historical overview, it might also serve as interesting supplemental reading in a standard history course on the high school or college level. Given its clear and interesting presentation, this book might prove a boon to history teachers striving to interest a sports obsessed society in something beyond next year's pennant race.

University of Notre Dame

Edmund F. Wehrle

***Work and the Waterways: An Aural History of Midwestern Workers.* One Audio Tape (60 minutes) and Teacher's Guide. Loyola University of Chicago and the Chicago Maritime Society, 1987. Order from the Chicago Maritime Society, c/o The Newberry Library, 80 West Walton St., Chicago, IL 60610. \$13.00.**

This package consists of a cassette containing about thirty folk songs, a two-part program outline, many discussion questions, an explanation of each song, and some material discussing the general use of music in understanding the past. The cassette also includes considerable lecturing about the life of workers in the Midwest that is done pleasantly and well, and dramatic speaking done by actors who are impersonating early nineteenth-century workers. All of this is intended to impart a sense of "you are there."

The songs are well chosen and well sung, although they are done more in an operatic than lower-class folk song style. Almost invariably, singers chosen for such recordings have a voice and style like television announcers on the national networks. Consequently, they do not sound very authentic. Dramatic speaking on this cassette manages to convey a feeling of authenticity much more successfully than the songs. Even so, the grammar of the speakers is so unrealistically good that they have a tough time preventing their twentieth-century culture from showing through.

The package contains some well-chosen documentary excerpts from contemporary newspapers. These could be reproduced for students and should considerably enhance the value of the material. The writers break the presentation into two units, but there is enough flexibility to allow a teacher to present the whole thing in one day, or if preferred, more than two days might be spent presenting the material. Overall, the written portion of *Work and the Waterways* is well done. The authors show good judgment in what to emphasize and in the choice of suggested questions.

This material would be most appropriate for public school students, but it could certainly be used in community and senior colleges as well. In most courses in the latter, however, more traditional materials would probably better accomplish the objectives that this publication is intended to achieve.

University of North Texas

E. Dale Odom

Waldo Heinrichs. *Threshold of War: Franklin D. Roosevelt and American Entry into World War II.* New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988. Pp. 279. Cloth, \$21.95.

With the wealth of available articles, biographies, edited diaries, and monographs that examine various facets of American entrance into World War II, the classroom teacher faces the dilemma of choosing one or two selections from a giant historiographical buffet table, for neither time nor appetite allows for the consumption of the entire intellectual feast. With the publication of Waldo Heinrichs's *Threshold of War*, the selection process has thankfully become a bit easier.