

readings. "Peoples and States," "Society," "Government," and "War" are examples of a few chapters that contain succinctly analyzed information unavailable elsewhere.

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**J.M. Roberts.** *Europe 1880-1945*. London and New York: Longman, 1989. Second edition. Pp. xv, 631. Cloth, \$35.50; paper \$20.50.

J. M. Roberts has written a traditional history, the sort of history for which Jacques Barzun pleads with wit and eloquence in *Clio and the Doctors* (Chicago, 1974). *Europe 1880-1945* is a narrative built on a chronological frame with the author's comments and analysis included as digressions. As Barzun says the historian should, Roberts has eschewed graphs and tables and charts, preferring to use words to explain even economic trends. Though the methodology might be thought, by some, old fashioned, the book is filled with not only facts but also astute comments about what those facts meant for the development of European society.

Although it is unlikely that author and publisher predicted the recent revolutionary events in Eastern Europe, their timing for the issuing of this book could hardly have been better. Confusion about these changes is widespread, and Roberts—who seems to have a taste for diplomatic history—provides a good foundation for understanding not only the regional problems with the Soviet system but also the ethnic problems that have produced violence in a number of places. He is able to give due attention to the Great Powers before, during, and between the World Wars without allowing the Lithuanians and Bulgarians (or for that matter, the Sanjak of Novi Bazar) to get lost. This volume is certainly appropriate for anyone who wants to understand the current situation in Europe.

Roberts's chapters about social and cultural development and change are also very good. He is deft at pulling together pieces of national history into discussions of Continental trends and attitudes. Literature, science, families, sex, religion, all aspects of human life, in fact, are grist for his mill, and the reader is left with an appreciation of the similarities and differences among Europe's regions and peoples. His breadth of knowledge and understanding is impressive indeed.

It is unfortunate, after so much praise, to have to warn those who might consider using *Europe 1880-1945* in the classroom that they may be disappointed. Roberts assumes a degree of historical literacy rarely found outside well-read graduate students. For instance, in one sentence he refers to *errages* and Blanqui, giving no identification at all. Those studying mid-nineteenth century French radicalism will, to torture a phrase of Marx's, find the slender, black-clad figure of Auguste Blanqui haunting their pages. An undergraduate, however, could have a pretty fair knowledge of European and even French history without even recognizing the name. Roberts has written a very good book, but it is a work that demands much from the reader. For students who have the background or who—if there are any—will look up references they do not understand, this will be an excellent text. For the average student, caution is advised.

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**Richard Cust and Ann Hughes, eds.** *Conflict in Early Stuart England: Studies in Religion and Politics 1603-1642*, London and New York: Longman, 1989. Pp. ix, 271. Paper, \$17.95.

**Roger Lockyer.** *The Early Stuarts: A Political History of England 1603-1642*. London and New York: Longman, 1989. Pp. ix, 411. Paper, \$17.95.

On January 30, 1649, the diminutive Charles I of England became a head shorter than all his contemporaries. Historians agree on that fact, but they disagree on nearly all others, especially on the causes of that decollation. "Whit," historians on the English Civil War proved that the early Stuart kings illegally resisted the natural development of liberty in England. Marxists on the English Revolution proved that it was a matter of class warfare during the transition from feudalism to