

covers the history of Leninism in fifteen pages, the takeovers in Eastern Europe in ten, a survey of communism in Asia in 25. Aiming to combine both abstract analysis and historical detail, material is deftly condensed. Of course, for those who are not familiar with a history of the Comintern or the theory of "stratocracy," such quick sketches might lead to confusion more than enlightenment. There is definitely more breadth than depth here.

As a result, I found the historical sections overly abstract, and the theoretical ones too thin on elaboration. Westoby often makes stunning observations—the Roman Empire analogy emerges in the prescient remark about the USSR's imperialism coming as a conqueror of more advanced economies (like Rome and Greece), for instance. There are also quick tantalizing tidbits on Trotsky and Freud, a bloodchilling conversational extract with first Soviet secret police chief Dzerzhensky, and searing remarks on how Marxism has become an ideology of the educated. Certainly much of what Westoby says could help explain the collapse of the Soviet hegemony he does so much to explain in triumph, but it is nothing compared to what he might do in the future, turning his knowledge and skill directly on that question. A list of reading at the end of each chapter is useful, but somewhat shallow.

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Dan Bar-On. *Legacy of Silence: Encounters With Children of the Third Reich.* Cambridge & London: Harvard University Press, 1989. Pp. x, 338. Cloth, \$25.00.

Ian Kershaw. *The Nazi Dictatorship: Problems and Perspectives of Interpretation.* London & New York: Edward Arnold, 1989. Second edition. Pp. viii, 207. Paper \$15.95.

Dan Bar-On's *Legacy of Silence* is a collection of interviews with children of the perpetrators of the Holocaust—the children of Nazi officials who participated in or witnessed the mass murders of the Jews. Bar-On, an Israeli psychologist whose family left Germany in 1933, offers a new, moving, and disturbing complement to the more usual studies of the victims of Nazi genocide and their children. Just as the children of Nazi victims carry a life-long legacy of their parents' experiences, Bar-On suggests that the children of the Nazi perpetrators also bear a legacy of their parents' deeds, a legacy of silence.

Bar-On freely admits that his book is not an objective, "social science" approach to the effects of genocide. "When I return from my fourth trip to Germany in October 1987," he writes in his conclusion, "I feel a tremendous need to try to 'analyze my data' . . . But I know I am doing something wrong . . . I am distancing myself from my interviewees, looking at them from the outside . . . I wonder if this is a result of my ongoing ambivalence about the research: am I afraid that if I look too closely I will see ordinary human beings?"

It is this subjective, human dimension that makes *Legacy of Silence* a powerful reading experience. Bar-On establishes an emotional bond with the people he interviews, feeling their pain and confusion and blending it with his own. But Bar-On's approach may also pose problems for student readers of his book. Students tend to demand "answers" and to reject ambiguity, but the ambiguity of living with unbearable knowledge is precisely what Bar-On offers. There are no answers in *Legacy of Silence*, at least in any conventional sense. If there is a lesson in Bar-On's book, it is that building a wall of silence around such events as the Nazi genocide only serves to burden future generations.

Because it confronts students with the ambiguity of living with the legacy of genocide, *Legacy of Silence* would make an excellent supplementary text in courses on the Holocaust. It could be juxtaposed with the writings of survivors and their children, to encourage students to engage in a dialogue about the long-term effects of the Holocaust. Bar-On's book might also be useful in courses on post-war Germany. Several of Bar-On's interviewees raise disturbing questions about contemporary Germany, such as Peter, the son of an SS doctor, who says he could easily envision Germans today supporting "an Auschwitz for Turks."

Legacy of Silence would not be as helpful in courses on the Nazi period, simply because so much of the book deals with the lives of the interviewees after 1945. However, several chapters in the book might make useful supplementary readings, especially chapter nine, "Small Hills Covered With Trees," which presents some fascinating glimpses of family life in the Third Reich as well as a moving eyewitness account of mass murder in occupied Russia. *Legacy of Silence* deserves a place on course reading lists and in libraries, as a valuable source for students interested in doing research on the lives of the children of Nazi officials.

The first edition of Ian Kershaw's *The Nazi Dictatorship*, published in 1985, was immediately recognized as the best brief introduction to the current state of historical research on Nazism. In the second edition, Kershaw not only updates his earlier book but adds two new chapters on the major historical-political-moral controversies surrounding the Nazi period that have erupted in Germany in recent years. Given the rapid pace of political changes in both West and East Germany in the past year, Kershaw's book is not only valuable for understanding Germany's past but also her present and future.

Kershaw discusses several major "problems" in the study of Nazism: the fascist vs. totalitarian paradigms for understanding the role of Hitler in administration, Jewish policy, foreign policy, and the social effects of Nazism. Although Kershaw does not hesitate to present his own views—he believes fascism to be a better characterization of Nazism than totalitarianism, for example—his treatment of the conflicting opinions on each issue is fair and even-handed. While Kershaw's main focus is on West German scholarship, he does discuss the contributions of non-German writers as well, thus making *The Nazi Dictatorship* valuable as a general historiographical survey.

The second edition seems somewhat clearer on several points than the first. Unfortunately, Kershaw's two new chapters are not as easy to follow as the remainder of the book, perhaps because they treat very recent and thus still evolving controversies. In the first of the new chapters, Kershaw discusses the "Historikerstreit" (historians' dispute), the controversy over the historicization of Nazism. Now that more than forty years have passed, is it time for historians to treat the Nazi period in the same way they treat other historical periods? Or does this "trivialize" Nazism and thus reduce its political and moral implications? In the second new chapter, Kershaw takes up the "revisionist" views of conservative historians, Ernst Nolte, Andreas Hillgruber, and Michael Sturmer. Kershaw points out that the three are not pursuing identical paths and need to be understood—and, in Kershaw's view, refuted—separately. While these chapters are a valuable addition, one may hope that in a future edition the arguments in them will be expressed more clearly. (The two new chapters in Kershaw's book make interesting reading in conjunction with Bar-On's *Legacy of Silence*, since both, in different ways, are about Germans' attempts to come to terms with their past.)

The Nazi Dictatorship should be required reading in upper division undergraduate and graduate courses on the Nazi period. It could be used in conjunction with two other recent books—the third edition of *The Nazi Revolution* (D. C. Heath, 1990), edited by Alan Mitchell, and *Life in the Third Reich* (Oxford University Press, 1987), edited by Richard Bessel—to provide a sound and stimulating introduction to recent historical research on Nazism. Kershaw's book, however, probably will not be useful in lower-division undergraduate courses. Kershaw assumes background knowledge (both on Nazism and on historiographical thinking) that few first and second-year students possess. Instructors of courses on Nazism at all levels will find the book a valuable resource, and indeed it should be read by anyone involved in teaching courses in modern European history.

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Donald R. Wright. *African Americans in the Colonial Era: From African Origins Through the American Revolution*. Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1990. Pp. x, 184. Paper, \$8.95.

Historians familiar with the Harlan Davidson American History Series have come to expect succinct summary statements and strong bibliographic essays. Donald Wright's book will thus be a welcome addition to the series. The series' editors identified a gap in the survey literature on African-American history. Colonial America has simply not been addressed in a meaningful fashion.