

Wartime Politics." With few exceptions, the 217 cartoons relate to diplomatic and (to a lesser extent) military aspects of the war. There is little attention to the impact of World War II, or to the war on the several homefronts.

The book ends rather abruptly, and I am sorry there is not an index by country or topic that would have made the book more useful. There is also, unfortunately, no note on sources: Where does one go to find cartoons of this sort? Where did Douglas find them?

Douglas says his purpose was to examine how the war looked from different angles: from different countries, from the same country at different times, and from the same country at the same time. These contrasts are not always so clear in the reading, and Douglas does not quite achieve the comparisons he cites. Nor is it clear how typical these cartoons, and the publications in which they appeared, are. One concludes that they were chosen to illustrate the author's points, not necessarily as a representative sample of editorial cartoons during World War II. This is an important distinction students in particular should keep in mind.

Nevertheless, *The World War* is a commendable effort to bring this neglected voice to the classroom. It is recommended as a valuable and compact resource for the right course, probably an advanced course on World War II itself or perhaps a modern European diplomatic course. It would have only limited application in a U.S. history course.

I wish I could be as positive about *Wits of War*. Although its collection of GI humor from World War II (principally from Europe) actually gives a reader more of a sense of the war's character than *The World War* does, *Wits of War* is not well-suited for teaching purposes. It contains 1,500 jokes, one-liners, anecdotes, examples of exaggerated language, cartoons (drawn for this publication), and assorted nonsense that reflects well the offbeat and irreverent GI humor of the Second World War, in which Swineford himself served. Browsing through its nearly 700 pages is enjoyable, but it is difficult to see the classroom application of this collection, except perhaps in a course dealing specifically with the humor of the Second World War.

Wits of War will serve me as a source of contemporary humor to work into speeches and writings on World War II, and it would serve a teacher as a source to enliven lectures. I am afraid I cannot recommend it, however, for much more than that.

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Deli Strummer. *A Personal Reflection of the Holocaust.* Edited by Nancy Henson. Baltimore: Aurich Press, 1989. Pp. 70. Paper, \$6.95.

At first glance, *A Personal Reflection of the Holocaust* appears to be a simple, brief description of what we know is a complex situation. However, this glance is deceiving. In her simply written autobiography, Deli Strummer tells a horrifying story of Nazi abuse, juxtaposed with a moving story of human courage and sacrifice.

At times today's readers may feel overwhelmed with information or stories about the Holocaust. Yet, in this book, without needing great detail, the reader becomes very aware of the pain and horror Deli Strummer experienced. Her language is simple. Through her choice of words and the particular experiences Strummer chooses to describe, the reader can easily picture the terrible times she endured, while appreciating her courage and faith. Two citations illustrate this point:

We were not idle in Mauthausen. The electrified fences that ringed the camp soon became entangled with bodies--bodies of those who tried to escape, or, out of illness and despair, had thrown themselves against the wires. When the fence was full, the guards turned off the electricity, and whoever was left had to remove the bodies.

By the time the train left Czechoslovakia, they [Czech freedom fighters] had succeeded [in loosening the sides of the train cars]. People began escaping . . . My heart and soul felt

rejuvenated. I wanted to run away with them, but I realized at the same moment that Nita [a fellow nursing student] could go no farther . . . It took me less than a moment to swing my legs back into the cattle car . . . Inexplicably, I could not go. I could not break my promise.

A Personal Reflection is the story of a young woman's strength, though she faced separation from family and loved ones and endured the horrors of Nazi concentration camp. During the entire ordeal, Deli continued to help others. The climax of the narrative occurs when, at the very moment Deli and Nita were to enter the gas chamber, they were freed by American soldiers.

Deli and Nita returned to destroyed Vienna to search for Deli's family. She found them, but reunion was not enough for her. Instead of dwelling on her own troubles and terrible experiences, the author sensed that she must continue to give her life to serving others and helping them through bad times. She stayed for a few years in Vienna working in a hospital as well as with the organization "Bring Them Home," which tried to return children to their families.

Eventually she came to the United States, where she continued to dedicate her life to alleviating others' pain. In New York, she worked at the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital in antibiotic research, at Sloan Kettering in blood research, and at Sinai hospital in Baltimore in hormone research. Now retired, Deli continues to volunteer as an Eyewitness at the Capital Children's Museum in Washington, D.C., and as a Grief Recovery Group Facilitator.

Deli Strummer's autobiography is well-suited for middle school and high school readers, yet for college students also the book is an excellent point of departure for discussion of human rights. Adults, too, will find that this beautifully written, seemingly simple book is decidedly moving and powerful. It carries the message of the horror of the Holocaust while at the same time illustrating the human courage and caring that one needed to survive.

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Wayne C. McWilliams and Harry Piotrowski. *The World Since 1945: A History of International Relations*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1990. Second edition. Pp. xi, 492. Paper, \$18.95.

Cascades of news reports should have convinced us during the past few years that every educated person needs a systematic orientation into the global environment of public affairs. McWilliams and Piotrowski address this need with an excellent textbook for a history course on international relations since 1945. The book is written for instructors and students. It has nineteen chapters of more or less equal length grouped into five parts. Each part has a boxed introduction that forecasts what students will encounter in each chapter. The paragraphs are firmly drawn and the sentences structured for clarity without "talking down" to readers. Each chapter has an up-to-date annotated list of recommended readings in English and endnotes referring to sophisticated sources. The index is extensive and accurate; photos are clear; fourteen maps show political boundaries.

The text is proportioned to avoid "Western-centered approaches" and Europe and the United States are discussed when necessary to explain their participation in main themes. The themes are Origins of the Cold War, Nationalism and the End of Colonialism, the Shifting Sands of Global Power (referring to the 1960s), the Third World, and the End of the Postwar Era (referring to the 1980s). The text does not adhere to an overall chronology but subthemes clarify the order of events. Especially useful subthemes include the Sino-Soviet rift and its distress to the Eastern bloc, the Vietnam War and its impact on the Western bloc, the travails of postindependence in Asia and Africa, the evolution of Arab-Israeli confrontation, the economic triumph of Japan, and the nuclear arms race and negotiations to contain it. With more refined concepts of nationalism, secularism, and modernization, the discussions of militant Islam and the Iranian revolution and relationships between rich and poor nations, could be strengthened.