Despite its brevity, this volume does justice to the life of Jane Addams and to the history of Hull House by providing sufficient context. Developments in women's higher education, the growth of Chicago, the Pullman Strike, the Columbian Exposition, the suffrage movement, and pacifism during World War I are treated in enough detail to make Addams's response to them intelligible. Nor is the volume confined to the actions of the central figure; Addams's ideas are probed briefly but cogently.

Any teacher at the secondary or beginning college level who is looking for a clear, accurate, interesting biography for classroom or library use should consider this book.

Western Connecticut State University Herbert Janick


One of the Library of American History volumes, this book follows their usual formula of weaving original documents in with the author's prose to create a dramatic narrative about some era, or topic, in the American past. The author, a Harvard graduate, has developed a career in writing and editing textbooks.

Jantzen has a general chapter on pre-World War I United States, follows it with one on the assassination of the Archduke in Sarajevo, and one on the reaction to it, and ten more short chapters, four on the period before the U.S. entered, three on the country in the war, one on the armistice, and two on the peace treaty and League of Nations. Chronologically, the book is balanced well enough.

The author features actions by individuals as the device for telling his story. He chooses to use a combination of very well-known people like Theodore Roosevelt and his sons, Eugene V. Debs, and Emma Goldman, along with persons who are unknown, but who left some documentation that could be used to discover their thinking and reactions to events of the time.

With a simple and straight-forward narrative, the work is very easy to read. It flows swiftly and should grab the interest of even the least motivated high school student, although the attempt to create drama may be tiring to some readers. How much it will teach students will still depend on the knowledge and skill of the teacher who is using this volume in class. Most of the time Jantzen provides enough background to let the person he is following at that time be understood in context, but in some cases the teacher will need to supply additional background information on individuals.

Much additional information will be necessary for any student to make intelligent use of this volume to gain a full understanding of the United States in World War I. Two things especially, although they are not the only ones, make it very important that the student have considerable additional input. First, it is not clear at all from this volume why the United States entered the war, primarily because the author does not make it clear that Germany's unrestricted sub warfare beginning in 1917 was different from its earlier warfare, in that Germany planned to sink the vessels of neutral nations, and did, whereas earlier they were sinking only enemy ships. Second, in focusing on the country during the war, the author places so much emphasis on people like Debs and Goldman who opposed the war that the book implies that the war was much more widely opposed than it was. In this way the book is not well-balanced.

Nevertheless, this is generally a well-executed work that should prove readable and usable in secondary and possibly community college history classrooms. It has a brief bibliography and a usable index.

University of North Texas E. Dale Odom

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