

The opening essay on Bismarckian Germany by Geoff Eley lends evidence in support of Eley's position (shared with David Blackbourn and opposed by Hans-Ulrich Wehler) that German liberals were much more successful in the nineteenth century than might be assumed. For students unaware of Eley's place in the debate, James Retallack's essay on Wilhelminian Germany should prove enlightening, as he traces the historical literature from the 'legacy of the conservative historical tradition' to the recent achievements in the history of working-class culture of the Second Reich. Other noteworthy contributions include Jane Caplan's piece on the beginnings of Nazism in the Weimar Republic, Eve Rosenhaft's superb summary of the literature of women's history in modern Germany, and Richard Breitman's essay on the historiography of the Holocaust. Richard J. Evans provides an excellent discussion of German historiography at the end of the book that acknowledges the continued need for Germans and others to confront the German past, especially in light of recent events in the newly-united Germany.

The list of Martel's collaborators is impressive. Although several prominent American scholars (Larry E. Jones, Breitman, David Kaiser) contribute to this effort, most of the contributors are prominent British and Canadian academics. Only one German, Dieter Langewiesche (liberalism), is included among the twelve scholars. Eley's presence atop the list might explain the absence of Wehler or Juergen Kocka from the enterprise. It does not, however, explain the relatively scant attention paid to the German phenomenon of *Alltagsgeschichte* (the history of everyday life), perhaps the most exciting trend in historical writing to come from Germany in the last decade. Because *Alltagsgeschichte* proponents such as Alf Luedtke and Adelheid von Saldern have found champions among the contributors to this volume, the omission of a detailed exposition of the phenomenon is odd. One hopes Martel will consider including such an essay in future editions of this textbook, for the book should become a staple for undergraduate German history courses in the coming years.

The book's jacket states that "*Modern Germany Reconsidered* represents "essential reading for second- and third-year undergraduates on a range of Modern Germany courses." I second that appraisal—it is a remarkable accomplishment that ranks alongside William Sheridan Allen's *Nazi Seizure of Power* in its service to undergraduate students. (Graduate students might use Tracey Kay's bibliographical essay as a reading list for their comprehensive exams.) *Modern Germany Reconsidered* should find its way quickly to required reading lists in undergraduate German history courses.

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**Richard Bonney.** *The Short Oxford History of the Modern World: The European Dynastic States 1494-1660.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. pp. xxxiv, 658. Cloth, \$80.00.

Richard Bonney (of Leicester) has written this volume as part of a series on the modern world, four of which deal with English history and others with general European history and world regional topics. The series is designed to provide a basic core of historical knowledge and to incorporate the research and thinking that has significantly altered recent historiography. Thus, while the title may seem rather old-fashioned, Bonney tries to provide authoritative guidance with sensitivity to the proliferating complexity of specialized studies. One of the ways he does this is by providing a superb annotated bibliography for each chapter. A detailed chronology and dynastic charts are placed where they are most useful, at the beginning. One major flaw, in addition to the cost of the volume, is the map section; it is stuck at the back instead of being integrated, and the majority of the ten maps are monochrome and less than



a full page in size. In a period during which territorial wars are a major aspect, a good map section is a must. This volume and the series are admirable in intent, but have limited usefulness because of that intent, to provide a survey of ever changing interpretations. It will give faculty and students valuable direction on the formation of the regional dynastic states and the varied aspects of their structure and policies (economic, religious, culture, population, and political thought). However, the price eliminates its use as a text and makes it a tough choice for library budgets.

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**Sanford Wexler.** *Westward Expansion: An Eyewitness History.* New York and Oxford: Facts on File, 1991. Pp. xiii, 418. Cloth, \$40.00.

**Glenda Riley.** *A Place to Grow: Women in the American West.* Arlington Heights, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1992. Pp. x, 294. Paper, \$21.95.

*Westward Expansion* is a part of the Eyewitness History series of Facts on File Press, intended as a chronicle of "significant historical events or periods." Volumes in the series present numerous excerpts from a variety of sources, including memoirs, diaries, letters, newspaper articles, official documents—you name it. This volume in the series joins other entries that deal with the French Revolution and Napoleon, the Civil War and Reconstruction, World War I, Women's Suffrage, America's Gilded Age, and Vietnam. Wexler, the author of the present volume, also prepared the one on Vietnam; Joe H. Kirchnerberger prepared the first three mentioned above, and Elizabeth Frost and Judith Clark prepared *Woman's Suffrage and America's Gilded Age*.

*Westward Expansion* contains ten chapters arranged with strict chronology in mind, but beginning in 1754. This westward expansion, then, commences with those Americans already on the continent. An introduction prepares the reader with a definition of the "West," an explanation of Fredrick Jackson Turner's Frontier Thesis, and a brief review of some of the resulting literature, especially by Ray Allen Billington, a disciple of Turner, although such critics of the thesis as Charles Beard are mentioned.

Each chapter begins with a narrative of the period to which the chapter is devoted; this is followed by a Chronicle of Events, a year-by-year review of dates and events considered pertinent by the author-compiler. For example, "1753: October 31: Governor Dinwiddie of Virginia commissions George Washington to deliver a message to the French commandant at Fort Le Boeuf, demanding the French withdraw from the upper Ohio. December 21: Washington arrives at Fort Le Boeuf in the Ohio territory and informs the commandant, Legardeur de Saint-Pierre, that Virginia demands immediate French withdrawal; the French refuse to leave." After the Chronicle appear several Eyewitness testimonies. To complete our example relative to the quotation from the Chronicle, there is an excerpt of Dinwiddie's commission to Washington, a statement by Washington on it, exchanges of subsequent communications between them, and quite a few excerpts from letters, diaries, and other sources relative to the mission. This theme continues throughout regardless of topic. The concluding chapter deals with The Closing Frontier, meaning it stops in the 1890s. Three appendices are included. Appendix A reproduces fifteen documents ranging from the Proclamation of 1763 to the Louisiana Purchase Treaty to the Timber Culture Act of 1873. Appendix B consists of biographical sketches of major personalities associated with westward expansion. Appendix C is a series of maps illustrating expansion. A complete bibliography and index conclude the book.