

information on the image and its reception for historical analysis are introductory. They are followed by a long third chapter that is really the heart of the book, containing four frameworks of analysis preceded by an introduction. Each of these frameworks—"The Moving Image as Representation of History," "The Moving Image as Evidence for Social and Cultural History," "Actual Footage as Evidence of Historical Fact," and "The History of the Moving Image as Industry and Art Form"—are comprised of three relatively clearly-written and insightful essays by O'Connor and eleven other contributing authors. Chapter IV presents an actual case study, utilizing *The Plow That Broke the Plains*, a 1936 film by the United States Resettlement Administration. And the concluding chapter provides a much-needed introduction to comprehending visual language effectively for historians and teachers.

Albeit introductory, *Image as Artifact* is not really for anyone who does not have at least some interest in the possibilities of film and television for the writing and teaching of history. This book is well documented with literature (with an extensive appendix of sources for further reading) and actual moving images, but most of the numerous examples cited from this latter category, like *The Plow That Broke the Plains*, are not from more-familiar commercial or popular film and television. For those who find *Image as Artifact* of interest, and many will, it should be helpful for them to know that it is only "one of three published resources which are interlinked and cross referenced so each can be used to its fullest measure." The other two are a two-hour compilation on disk or tape of the most significant moving image materials cited in the book with a study guide, and a pamphlet, *Teaching History with Film and Television* (1987). Both are available from the AHA and are listed in the Preface as is the mailing address of the AHA.

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Albert Fried, ed. *Socialism in America: From the Shakers to the Third International—A Documentary History*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1992. Pp. xviv, 580. Cloth, \$35.00; paper, \$18.00.

When, in 1970, Doubleday published *Socialism in America*, the editor wrote in his preface, "There is no anthology of this kind now available." Although over two decades have passed since its initial appearance and the literature on American Socialism has proliferated, his earlier claim "still holds true: this is still the only available anthology on the subject." Its reissuance is a welcome readdition to the study of American Socialism. Fried's collection provides the student access to many documents that otherwise would be unavailable except in their original publication.

With the exception of a new preface, this volume is a reprint of the 1970 edition. The new preface is a valuable addition to the original book. In it, Fried modifies his original thesis that Socialism "was organic to American life" and that Socialism actually championed the very foundation of the American Republic by emphasizing the "conditions under which America's Socialisms took shape and had their effect on society." In brief, Fried argues that Socialisms thrived when America was non-military or anti-military as a result of America's uninvolved in world affairs and national security was not threatened. Moreover, Fried posits the theory that if his thesis is true, America may see an emergence of new Socialist movements in the wake of recent changes in the global community and the internal structure of the United States.

Following a "synoptic view" of American Socialism, 46 documents (many excerpted from lengthier works) are arranged ideologically and chronologically in seven chapters. Each set of documents is introduced by a well-written essay designed to provide the reader with the historical context in which the documents were originally produced.

The shortcomings of *Socialism in America* must be noted but are not such that the book's usefulness is greatly compromised. As with any collected work, the selection of materials is a difficult task. There will be readers who believe something has been omitted and there will be readers who will argue that some selections should have been. For example, there is only passing mention of the True Inspirationists of Amana, Iowa, while the rise of the Oneida Perfectionist

Society is hailed as the apogee of American religious communism and given detailed discussion. By comparison, Amana was more "middle of the road" than Oneida. Nonetheless, the Inspirationists spawned more communities, existed much longer, and inspired other Socialisms such as the Union Colonists and Llano del Rio.

Perhaps the major omission and one recognized by the editor in his new preface is the lack of documents on and by women Socialists. However, Fried does provide the reader with a thorough list of titles that the interested student of American Socialism and women's studies may find useful.

Acknowledging this volume's usefulness as a foundation to the study of American Socialisms, it would be appropriate as a supplemental text in upper-level American history classes. Several of the documents would also be useful in political history and social change courses.

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David W. Blight, ed. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave, Written by Himself*. Boston & New York: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1993. Pp. x, 163. Cloth, \$35.00; paper, \$6.70.

The 1845 narrative of Frederick Douglass's life was, arguably, the most widely read and influential slave narrative prior to the Civil War. Certainly, it is the best written. His story is one that should be familiar to students of the "Middle period," and this short text can be used as a fine supplement in an introductory college survey class or courses dealing with slavery or the Civil War. For those teachers looking to extract a few interesting and first-hand details of what a slave's life was like, I can think of no better source than this. I would even recommend this narrative to American literature teachers due to the artistic quality of Douglass's prose and the vivid images of slavery that are conveyed to the reader. Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press is to be highly commended for its re-issue and David W. Blight, author of *Frederick Douglass' Civil War: Keeping Faith in Jubilee*, has written an outstanding introduction as well as provided extensive notes on the text.

Space limitations only allow for a cursory look at this magnificent piece of historical literature. Douglass has provided the reader with a very interesting look at the life of a slave, and to a lesser extent, the life of a free black, as well as personal portraits of slaveholders and overseers, the moral dilemmas posed by the institution, the rising influence of abolitionists, and the increasing sectional tension wrought by slavery. These categories are not new, nor are the experiences of Douglass vastly different from that of thousands like him. But what sets this narrative apart from the others is the literary quality. Talking of a new overseer and his brutal discipline, Douglass wrote, "I was broken in body, soul, and spirit. My natural elasticity was crushed, my intellect languished, the disposition to read departed, the cheerful spark that lingered about my eye died; the dark night of slavery closed in upon me; and behold a man transformed into a brute!"

Preceding the narrative is a highly informative introduction by Blight as well as William Lloyd Garrison's original preface. Following the narrative, several important supplements are included, such as contemporary reviews of the work and a few of Douglass's speeches and personal letters, including one to his former master. A detailed chronology of Douglass's life (the narrative ends as he embarks on his abolitionist speaking career in the early 1840s), several thought-provoking questions to consider for classroom discussion, and a selected bibliography are also included. To the modern-day reader, the narrative is occasionally short on details. But Blight's copious notes are a wealth of information to complement the text, providing answers to many of the personalities mentioned or questions raised in the work, such as Douglass's method