

Harry James Cargas, *Voices from the Holocaust*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1993. Pp. xix, 164. Cloth, \$24.00; paper, \$14.95.

A renowned Holocaust scholar shares the fruit of years of painstaking research dealing with "the second Original Sin." Each chapter is presented in the form of excerpts from the transcripts of tape-recorded and video-taped oral history interviews. Cargas's work provides an excellent example of what can be done with oral history research techniques, particularly as a means of providing a check on more traditional history scholarship by either corroborating it or by calling it into question.

Although not all the interviewees were actual survivors of the Holocaust, and some were not Jewish, they were all participants in the events surrounding the beginning and the end of the organized Nazi brutality. For example, Whitney Harris was one of the principal members of the American prosecution team at the Nuremberg trials, and Jan Karski, an escaped Polish Catholic diplomat who fled from both the Germans and the Soviets, tried to alert the West about the Holocaust as early as 1942. Marion Pritchard, a Christian Dutch woman, was active in helping many Jews flee Holland and escape the Nazi horror.

Two interviews in particular stand out. In his interview, Simon Wiesenthal, the famed Nazi hunter and a survivor of the concentration camps, "tries to balance the evil he saw with justice and attempts to do so without a trace of hatred." Wiesenthal argues that the Holocaust did not begin with Adolph Hitler, but was the culmination of 2,000 years of religious and racial intolerance. In an extremely brief interview excerpt, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel reinforces the expression of regret common to other interviews that anti-Semitism has continued to persist in so much of Europe, but particularly Eastern Europe.

There are several themes in this work. The theme of death and rebirth is common to the interviews. Virtually all the interviewees agree that their Holocaust experiences taught them a great lesson in humility. The thesis of this work is that there is a theodicy, a theology of evil, that exists in the world and that the living must be on guard against it.

This work is recommended for use as a high school and college level readings book. It would be a useful tool in doing the background research in preparing to do oral history interviews with Holocaust survivors in communities scattered throughout the world.

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Larry Madaras & James M. SoRelle, eds. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in American History*. Guilford, CT: The Dushkin Publishing Group, Inc., 1993. Fifth edition. Vol. I: The Colonial Period to Reconstruction. Pp. xv, 378. ISBN 1-56134-121-5. Paper, \$13.95; Vol. II: Reconstruction to the Present. Pp. xvii, 398. ISBN 1-56134-122-3. Paper, 13.95.

Taking Sides is an issues reader designed for survey courses in United States History. This fifth edition presents thirty-three topical questions, with the customary division at Reconstruction, which is repeated in both volumes. Two readings drawn from secondary articles or books are presented in each chapter. Each issue begins with an Introduction which places the topic in an historical perspective by providing a brief background of events and ends with a Postscript which summarizes the arguments presented and offers a bibliographic essay of books that support each position.

The selection of issues is an interesting blend of familiar, broad topics and unique, more specialized ones. Topical questions such as "Was It Necessary to Drop the Atomic Bomb to End World War II?" are joined by more thematic ones such as "Was Race a Central Factor in the Colonists' Attitudes Toward Native Americans?" Perennial historical questions such as "Was the American Revolution a Conservative Movement?" share space with new approaches to basic topics like "Was the Confederacy Defeated Because of its 'Loss of Will'?" The editors hail this edition as a continuation of efforts "to move beyond