

more universal perspective might have helped convey how many people and nations were affected by Napoleon's reign. That said, the book is nonetheless an excellent, wide-ranging study of the Napoleonic Wars. Any teacher or scholar at all interested in this monumental historical era would find the book enjoyable. It would be especially useful on the college level, as the essays address many important historical questions from this vital historical era in brief and cogent fashion. The only concern might be that some of the essays focus on technical military questions that would be difficult for students to grasp.

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Keith Robbins. *Churchill*. London & New York: Longman, 1992. Pp. viii, 186. Paper, \$19.50. ISBN 0-582-03136-2.

Kevin Jefferys. *War & Reform: British Politics During the Second World War*. Manchester & New York: Manchester University Press, 1994. Pp. xii, 171. Cloth, \$49.95; ISBN 0-7190-3970-3. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-7190-3971-1.

Half a century after the end of the Second World War and the Labour Party landslide election in the summer of 1945, scholarly interest in Winston Churchill's wartime leadership and British domestic politics during the war has never been greater than it is today. These two books under review offer students and teachers alike different approaches to a better understanding of Great Britain in the twentieth century—the effects of two world wars, the postwar social welfare legislation, diminished great power status, and the climax and decline of the British empire.

Keith Robbins, the author of *The Eclipse of a Great Power: Modern Britain, 1870-1975* (1983), is Principal of St. David's University College, Lampeter, in the University of Wales, and general editor of the Longman *Profiles in Power* series. His brief biographical study of Winston Churchill is a welcome addition to that series. The author succinctly outlines Churchill's career and offers a balanced account of both domestic and foreign policy development and the role Churchill played in them. In the spirit of the series, Robbins seeks to evaluate the role of the individual in historical change, to uncover the nature and source of Churchill's power, and to discover what made possible his often "commanding role in national and world affairs in the first half of the 20th century." More of an interpretative biographical essay than a full-fledged biography and based on printed sources only, the work offers a quick and almost painless way for students to view Churchill's whole career and to grasp the nature of Churchill's personality in just under two hundred pages of reading. Needless to say, a large portion of the text treats Churchill's wartime coalition. The book can serve as a guide to Martin Gilbert's massive, multivolumed Churchill biography and to the more specialized, and often controversial, works of Paul Addison, John Charmley, Andrew Roberts, Norman Rose, and others. While some may question some of Robbins's interpretations, the author succeeds in displaying Churchill's brilliant successes, his failures, and the many apparently contradictory aspects of his complex personality. The work can be used with profit in advanced courses on twentieth-century Britain or in specialized courses on the individual and the nature of political power. The book includes footnotes, a brief bibliography, a chronological table, and an index.

Kevin Jefferys is a Senior Lecturer in Contemporary History at the University of Plymouth, the author of several scholarly works, including *The Churchill Coalition and Wartime Politics, 1941-1945*, the editor of the wartime diaries of James Chuter Ede, and general editor of the Manchester University series *Documents in Contemporary History*. His contribution to that series conforms admirably to its purpose of providing advanced secondary students and university undergraduates a concise overview of the results of specialist research on British domestic politics during the Second World War, a guide through the major historiographical debates, and an introduction to the methodological problems involved in the use and interpretation of the extracts from a wide range of primary sources included in the text. Students will encounter selections from political diaries, private letters, memoirs, official government records, party manifestos, newspaper articles, political cartoons, and evidence of the state of public opinion in wartime Britain. Teachers will find the introductory chapter useful in preparing for courses at almost any level. In only fourteen pages the author lays out the major historical debates about wartime

politics in Britain, the significance of the war years for longer term trends in British society, whether the wartime coalition government committed the country to domestic social reform and the welfare state, and the nature and causes of the Labour landslide in 1945.

The primary source documents with accompanying headnotes and explanatory footnotes are judiciously selected and arranged to illustrate six historical issues. Topics include the fall of Chamberlain's government in May 1940, and the undermining of the prewar Tory pattern of government; the complex political developments behind the scenes of the battle of Britain; the problems of war production and the questions of leadership before the allied victories of late 1942; political pressure for commitment to social and economic reforms from Labour backbenchers and others beginning with the debate over the Beveridge Report at the end of 1942; the last years of the war and the resurfacing of party competition supposedly submerged during the wartime emergency; and the 1945 election culminating in the Conservative party's devastating political defeat and the voters' rejection of Churchill as a postwar political leader.

War and Reform is a model for what a collection of primary sources should be. It can serve as assigned reading in advanced courses on modern Britain; any one of the topics can serve as the basis for written assignments at almost any level. There is a helpful chronology of events, a short guide to further reading, and an index (most unexpected in a collection of primary sources).

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Philip Longworth. *The Making of Eastern Europe*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994. Pp. xiv, 320. Paper, \$17.95; ISBN 0-312-12042-7.

As communism came to an end in country after country of Eastern Europe in the second half of 1989, Philip Longworth was already at work on *The Making of Eastern Europe*, which was first issued in 1992. Not a conventional history but "an enquiry into the factors which shaped Eastern Europe's development and have given it the character it has today," the arrangement of the book is anti-chronological, beginning in 1989 and proceeding toward the past.

The disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire under stress of war and force of national self-determination may be seen as the sharp end of an era of, albeit awkward, political and economic order. The Bolshevik displacement of czarist autocracy is seen by many as marking a less sharp break with imperial policies but a sharper swing in society and politics. Philip Longworth contends that the Soviet and kindred regimes of Eastern Europe "may have been less of an aberration from the previous course of the past than is commonly assumed." Characteristics Longworth ascribes to the region before the advent of communism include economic backwardness, bureaucratic rigidity, a disinclination to compromise, and tendencies to both utopianism and romantic excess. These characteristics contributed to a predisposition to "Stalinist methods of industrial generation." They remain in the Eastern Europe of today. Following forty to seventy years, depending upon location, of communist social and economic engineering, "the nations of Eastern Europe remain the poor relations of the Western world."

In addition to both familiar and obscure dynastic and interdynastic politics and warfare that Longworth outlines, he attributes much of Eastern European character to the sixteenth-century emergence of serfdom and the nineteenth-century population explosion that saw a doubling in the last forty years of that century. Communism "solved a deep-seated agrarian problem only to transform the 'sullen, alienated peasantry into a sullen, alienated proletariat.'"

Writing in 1991, Longworth is more prophetic than objective in suggesting that, communism having failed to transform the region, ancient patterns have been re-emerging since 1989. That willingness to go beyond merely describing ancient societal forces to venture prediction of their resurgence makes this book recommended material for the reader hoping to understand current events, even atrocious events in former parts of Yugoslavia; hoping to find Western economic expectations materializing, and hoping