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).

The University of Southwestern Louisiana

Robert J. Gentry


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 Longsworth 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
to see Western political idealism taking root. Only on the first of these does Longsworth offer the reader any confidence.

History teachers may find here a literally pleasing study experience for themselves and their students. There are succinct supplementary materials for lectures or assignment.

Somewhat troublesome is the anti-chronological order of the work. Since the book begins at the present and works backward to Constantine, there are irritating instances where the reader encounters terms that are identified and explained only in a latter portion of the book. The index is helpful with this problem.

For those of us less well-traveled in Eastern Europe, geographically or intellectually, this is a fascinating and entertaining survey. Especially refreshing and valuable for class use is the spirit of friendly neutrality in the treatment of communist governments of Eastern Europe in the Cold War era. Do not, however, look for coverage of the Soviet Union itself, though the Soviet role in promoting the events of 1989 in other countries is an interesting note.

Floyd College

George Pullen


Since their appearance on the scene four and six years ago, respectively, Burkholder and Johnson’s Colonial Latin America and Bushnell and Macaulay’s The Emergence of Latin America in the Nineteenth Century have been widely adopted for course preparation and classroom use.

The colonial volume, well written and rich in social and cultural history, served well either as a comprehensive primer for graduate students, or as an accessible text for the advanced undergraduate. Its combined use of the chronological and the topical approach made it possible to utilize it in a colonial course using either structure. Its bibliographies also served as a useful source for additional reading assignments and a guide to background reading for the nonspecialist. The nineteenth-century volume, while too detailed and lengthy for most single-semester surveys, offers the comprehensive approach needed for the nineteenth-century segment of courses focusing on the modern period. Its content and bibliographies have served as aids to graduate students and nonspecialists teaching the modern period. For all this, the authors and Oxford University Press, which published both works, are to be commended. I do, however, have some concerns about these second editions.

Teachers who appreciated the considerable strengths of the original editions of these works as texts for classroom use will be pleased to note that both second editions retain the virtues of the original. This is unsurprising since, in fact, each second edition is nearly identical to its original.

In the Burkholder and Johnson volume the format and content of the first edition are retained. The authors keep their mixture of the chronological and the thematic. In fact, they appear to wholly retain their text. All eight chapter headings, all subheadings, and the pagination are identical between the two editions. A spot check indicates that the text is essentially (perhaps totally) unchanged from the earlier edition. Maps, tables, the glossary and index appear identical as well. In the after matters, one new list, “Monarchs of Spain and Portugal,” has been added.

The discernible changes in the new edition come in two areas, illustrations and bibliography. Perhaps half of the original illustrations have been replaced or reformatted, although their placement in relation to the text and their themes remain the same. The “Suggestions for Further Reading” at the end of the chapters have been updated to reflect the scholarship of the early 1990s. While the bibliographic update is commendable and useful, the need for the substitutions in illustrations is questionable. It is not clear that either of these additions warranted a new edition only four years after the first. If there are