

about them, because they are that kind of material (though some are "popular" and some more traditionally "scholarly").

Mugleston (from Floyd College in Georgia, and the Book Review Editor of this journal) and Derden (from East Georgia College) begin with a brief preface, which, while excellent and on target in its suggestion that today's complex times intensify our need for history, fails to provide any rationale for their approach and specific selections. They divide their material into four parts. Part one, "Colonial America," features essays by important environmental historian Alfred W. Crosby, well-known historians Gary B. Nash (on the African's response to slavery) and John Demos (on witchcraft in Salem and elsewhere), and other selections on indentured servants, John Smith, and Anne Hutchinson.

Part two, "Revolutionary and Early National America," includes the essays on "troublemakers" Sam Adams and Benedict Arnold, Valley Forge, a not-very-effective brief piece by Don Higginbotham taking issue with those who would compare the American Revolution with Vietnam, and essays on the Constitution by Jack N. Rakove and Richard B. Morris.

"Expanding America," the third part, is strong, featuring outstanding essays by Lois W. Banner on the early women's rights movement, Jack Larkin on daily life (students should love reading how Americans then drank much, bathed little, etc.), Stephen B. Oates on Nat Turner, co-editor Mugleston on Tocqueville and Dickens, and David McCullough on Harriet Beecher Stowe; also, a not-quite-so-strong piece on Eli Whitney.

The fourth and final part, "Divided America," begins with C. Vann Woodward's "John Brown's Private War." This reviewer would argue that Woodward gets too bogged down in what are basically side issues—such as Brown's impractical plans, criminal past, and possible insanity—and fails to emphasize adequately the essential point of his vital contribution to the end of the evil of human slavery. Also included are essays by Bruce Catton on common soldiers in the Civil War and on Jefferson Davis (Catton could write, couldn't he?!), Stephen B. Oates on the politics of emancipation, Eric Foner on internal conflict in the Confederacy, and James M. McPherson on how participants on both sides viewed the war. Professors who break their survey course at 1877 might wish for an additional section, or at least an essay or two in this section, on Reconstruction.

If you are looking for a good reader for your survey, consider this one.

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Davis D. Joyce

**Haruko Taya Cook and Theodore F. Cook. *Japan at War: An Oral History*. New York: The New Press, 1992. Pp. 479. Cloth, \$27.50. Paper, \$14.95.**

Haruko Taya Cook and Theodore F. Cook have compiled a gripping and revealing oral history of Japan during World War II. The authors, who interviewed several hundred survivors, selected a broad cross-section of Japanese society, including staff-level military officers, enlisted men, journalists, diplomats, artists, workers, and those barely of school age at the time of the war. The translations are exquisite, allowing the voices to speak for themselves. The result is a poignant, sweeping, and often provocative view of the war from the Japanese perspective. It is oral history at its best; neither the specialist nor general student will be disappointed.

The intensely personal accounts vitalize the chronology and deepen concepts associated with the Pacific War. The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere is seen through the eyes of exuberant schoolchildren tracing its growth from Harbin to Bandung on a classroom map. Journalists celebrate the sending of the manhood of Japan to liberate the "exploited" of Asia; the young are solemnly reminded of their Samurai ancestors and the divinity of His Imperial Highness. In a scary display of power the government squelches "thought criminals" and "complicated intellectuals" who question the geopolitics of expansion and grandiose military plans to subjugate East Asia.

Testimonies relating the horrors of the war are piercing. A young platoon leader attests that the bayoneting of "a living human being" was a standard of training in his command and that massacres of suspect civilians were "routine." American pilots are executed in defiance of international law; Koreans provide both "forced labor" and "comfort women" for the Japanese war machine. A Japanese army doctor describes ghoulish experiments in human vivisection. Okinawan villagers engage in mass suicide to avoid capture by Americans intent, they have been told, on violating them.

The Japanese people do not escape the agony and pathos. Those who experienced the Tokyo fire bombings and the atomic attack on Hiroshima share the ghastly trauma of the moment. Fourth graders harvesting the fields scurry to avoid strafing from American planes. Women widowed by the war lay plans to have their ashes scattered in the Pacific where their pilot-husbands were lost half a century ago. Octogenarian mothers mourn sons who never returned, lighting candles and burning incense before Buddhist altars. Despite the pervasive suffering the acceptance of the surrender was met by disbelief and anger by many who had given so much of themselves and their families for what they considered to be a glorious and just cause.

The commentaries of the authors are succinct, syndetic, and probing. Their salient message: The war for the Japanese was "lost" amidst the facile political and economic transformation of the post-war era and remains, therefore, "unresolved," lacking even a definitive title, and neglected in textbooks and public discourse. They urge that the nagging residue—including "war responsibility"—be "faced and examined in public" in both Japan and the United States.

For secondary social studies in America, *Japan at War* offers a rich and fascinating supplement to the Pacific War presented in American textbooks, from Manchuria to Hiroshima, in a few laconic paragraphs. It is also a lesson in historiography for high school students who can learn how much history is contained in the lives of the people around them.

Kean College of New Jersey

William W. Goetz

David Steigerwald. *The Sixties and the End of Modern America*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995. Pp. vii, 328. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 0-312-12303-5. Paper, \$14.50; ISBN 0-312-09007-2.

David Steigerwald is assistant professor of history at The Ohio State University at Marion. He has written a number of articles for scholarly journals and has a forthcoming monograph, *Wilsonian Liberals and the Passing of the Universal Ideal*.

The basic theme of this book is that the sixties marked the passing of U.S. society from the modern to the postmodern age. The author dates the modern era as beginning at the turn of the twentieth century and reflecting the nature of modern industrial capitalism. The mass production in heavy industry and in consumer goods fed on labor from the great cities. Out of these changes come what the author refers to as the administrative state that liberals used to promote social reform at home and to oppose colonialism in foreign affairs.

In the postmodern era technology allowed manufacturers to move plants, automate work, and "deindustrialize." City cores deteriorated as urbanization moved into suburbanization. Modernist artists and intellectuals dissolved old ideals of politics, philosophy, and taste and abolished all traditions. Steigerwald sees the one real "winner" of the sixties as consumer culture. It was adaptable enough to turn many of the sixties' challenges into marketing opportunities. The author acknowledges a political purpose in his hope that "interpreting the decade as neither heavenly nor diabolical can help us break the current social and political stalemate." That's a pretty lofty hope that an academic work will bring reason to extremists in American society, but it makes for interesting reading.

After stating his theme and hopes for the work, Steigerwald then gives us ten chapters analyzing the various aspects of this tumultuous decade. There are two chapters on the Vietnam War and chapters dealing with the civil rights movement, student radicalism, the urban crisis, and crisis of authority, among others. He spends little time on the flower children and rock and roll. The civil rights movement was an "unambiguous" development for good and the Vietnam War appalling to the author.