

encountered any of these "new" varieties in secondary school), suggest the best ways to manage energy, time, and mind, and stress the necessity of thinking like an historian. The last four chapters deal with the nuts and bolts of course work: reading, listening, and study strategies, preparing for and taking examinations, and writing papers. All this is done in a plain and simple style illustrated with homey examples.

From the student's point of view, the advice seems to break down at only one point. The authors contend that by efficient management, the student will be able to handle each week's work in a reasonable amount of time. But their suggestions as to what he should do each week—read the textbook analytically, making careful notes in the margins of the textbook; write brief summaries of paragraphs; make key concept cards; draw up a variety of exceedingly lengthy charts, the complexity of which daunted even me; study and rewrite lecture notes; outline for class discussions; and participate in a student study group (two hours a week for this last alone)—are as overwhelming as this sentence, and may well leave the student wondering when there will be time for the other three or four classes in a typical student schedule.

The book has other shortcomings. Specifically, the section on analytical reading (87-89) asks the student to analyze a quotation from a current text on Jackson's war on the Second Bank of the United States. The quotation is obviously misquoted and makes no sense; it does not even mention two persons whom the authors in their commentary claim are included in the passage. On a more general level, the authors appear to argue that organization is the key to the study of history. Organization is certainly an important element, but it alone will not guarantee a student's success. Finally and perhaps most importantly, Pace and Pugh, in stressing the need for analytical reading and listening to determine the validity of historical interpretations, imply that such analysis is a matter of objective logic, of methodology; there is no hint that historical interpretations can be (and frequently are) based on subjective value judgments. Such an approach, it seems to me, will leave the student with no real understanding of present-day historical controversy. Worse, it will deny the student the opportunity to test his or her own value system by comparing it with those of the historians encountered.

So is this a work that beginning history students can use profitably? If the student's problem is how to organize his study, the answer is yes. But the book's discussion of the organizational aspects of history is probably too complex for the marginal student, and its failure to consider the philosophical sells the better student short. Indeed, the work may be of most value to the beginning college instructor, who can easily mine and boil it down for all manner of how-to-study advice in the form of class handouts

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Michael Field. *Inside the Arab World*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994. Pp. 439. Cloth, \$27.50. ISBN 0-674-45520-7.

Michael Field, long-time economic correspondent in the Middle East, offers another volume to an interesting body of literature that attempts to explain the failures of the contemporary Arab world. Among the more prominent works in this area are David Pryce-Jones's *The Closed Circle: An Interpretation of the Arabs* (1989), Halim Barakat's *The Arab World: Society, Culture, and State* (1993), Milton Viorst's *Sandcastles: The Arabs in Search of the Modern World* (1994), Paul Salem's *Bitter Legacy: Ideology and Politics in the Arab World* (1994), and Nazith N. Ayubui's

Over-Stating the Arab State: Politics and Society in the Middle East (1995). Field's readable, insightful book, based on his many years in the region and on extensive interviews, is a balanced, useful addition.

The book is divided into two parts. The first deals with the history and reasons for the failure of Arab nations to adjust successfully to the modern world in the last fifty years. The failures include a loss of faith in government; the inability to transform into modern democracies; inefficient, corrupt, and debt-ridden economies; fear of ever-permeating Western influence's debilitating impact on Arab culture; religious schism; and failure to achieve peace. The longer second section treats efforts at reform in different parts of the Arab world, which Field argues are largely driven by Western influence and the realities of a global economy. Many of these reforms promise a measure of success.

After a very fine introductory overview of the Arab world within its Middle East and Islamic context, Field provides three good historical chapters that treat developments in World War I through the present. He then elucidates the corruption of the state and the economic stagnation that prevail and he offers a case study of Algeria as an example of larger problems in the region. The chapter on Saudi Arabia is a particularly interesting study of problems and reform. Although quite different from most Arab countries both in economic and cultural terms, Saudi Arabia's vast resources make it a pivotal Arab state. Once the vision of the future, now the debt-ridden kingdom is going in the opposite direction of most of the poor states that are making some economic progress. Corruption, political stagnation, the challenge of Islamic fundamentalists, and the aspirations of an emerging middle class may be more vivid in Saudi Arabia than in other states. However, unlike Said K. Aburish's pessimistic *The Rise, Corruption, and Coming Fall of the House of Saud* (1995), Field presents a picture of necessary economic and structural changes coming from the current challenges, and he is more generous toward the political leadership of King Fahd and the Al-Saud family corporation. While Field is not unduly sanguine, it is hard to believe that he and Aburish looked at the same country.

This is a very fine book for understanding the changing Arab world. It is useful for garnering lecture material, and in a paperback edition it would make good reading for an advanced undergraduate course on contemporary Arab politics. With its largely secular and economic focus, it should be used in conjunction with another work that gives broader attention to Islamic resurgence, possibly Mir Zohair Husain's *Global Islamic Politics* (1995). As for me, Field will replace Milton Viorst's *Sandcastles* in my course on Islamic and Middle East Politics.

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Roger Collins. *Early Medieval Spain: Unity in Diversity, 400-1000*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995. Second edition. Pp. xxiii, 317. Paper, \$16.95. ISBN 0-312-12662-X.

Roger Collins, an English academic, is the best-known medievalist writing in English about the Iberian peninsula, particularly for the early period. His second edition of *Early Medieval Spain* provides a relatively inexpensive background work for a period once all but lost to American students.

His book, written clearly and suitable for advanced high school students as well as university undergraduates, may be particularly useful not only for history students investigating the Middle Ages outside of Britain and France but also as a background for students in their second or third