

Women and men were involved in different economic activities but were not necessarily unequal. Women become more subordinate as the "cultural elaboration of difference" develops into an institutionalized hierarchy that is patriarchal. Women's history, Lerner asserts, connects women to their past and is essential in creating a feminist consciousness and in developing a vision for the future. The stories of the past become part of our present and future, she concludes, and "shapes the way next generations experience their lives. That is why history matters."

This work would obviously be of interest in classes on women's history, but I plan to use it also in my historiography class. Some of Lerner's ideas relating to patriarchy are discussed in greater detail in her other works, but here she provides topics for discussion on a wide variety of subjects relating to Carl Becker and relativism, minorities and the oppressed, and many other areas in modern historiography.

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**C.J. Bartlett.** *Peace, War and the European Powers, 1814-1914.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996. Pp. x, 202. Cloth, \$45.00; ISBN 0-312-16137-9. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-312-16138-7.

*Peace, War and the European Powers, 1814-1914* is the first title published in a new British series, *European History in Perspective*, edited by Jeremy Black. The author, C.J. Bartlett, Professor of International History at the University of Dundee, has written extensively on European diplomacy in the nineteenth century, including *Great Britain and Sea Power, 1815-1853* (1963), *Castlereagh* (1966), and *Defense of Diplomacy* (1993). The book's brief 180 pages devote equal time to European diplomacy from the Congress of Vienna to the Franco-Prussian war and from the Bismarckian System to World War I.

In this "extended essay," Bartlett tests the views of those historians who attribute the relative peacefulness of the nineteenth century to the role of diplomacy based on what Paul Schoeder has called "consensual politics," the willingness of European diplomats to work within an international system rather than single-mindedly pursuing national self-interest. While the author does see some evidence of "consensual politics" in the nineteenth century, especially in the era immediately following the Napoleonic wars, he points out how frequently the European powers used the international system to promote their own interests.

Bartlett argues that, rather than a balance of power system or an equilibrium maintaining peace in the nineteenth century, it was a power imbalance against France before 1854 and a power imbalance in favor of Germany in the latter part of the century that helped to prevent major wars from occurring. The danger of war was increased when there was a movement away from imbalance, as happened in the post-Crimean war period

and the 1909 to 1914 period when Germany became increasingly fearful of being encircled.

This book is not a narrative account of nineteenth-century diplomacy--its brevity does not permit this--but rather the thoughtful judgments of a leading historian of international relations on recent scholarly literature dealing with nineteenth-century diplomacy. Pauls Choeder's *The Transformation of European Politics, 1763-1848*, Jacques Joll's *The Origins of the First World War*, and R. Langhorne's *The Collapse of the Concert of Europe* are only a few of the recent and significant works discussed in this book. An annotated bibliography at the end of the book walks you through nineteenth-century diplomatic history.

*Peace, War and the European Powers* would be an excellent book to use in an upper-division or graduate class in nineteenth-century Europe where students can be expected to have some knowledge of the broad outlines of nineteenth-century European history and some familiarity with the literature of the field. It is written in a clear and even lively style, but does presume more background knowledge than most lower-division students can be expected to have. This is a very useful book for the instructor teaching nineteenth-century Europe without specialization in diplomatic history; it provides many thoughtful judgments on key events in diplomatic history.

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**Geoffrey Ellis.** *Napoleon.* London & New York: Longman, 1997. Pp. viii, 290. Paper \$13.95; ISBN 0-582-02547-8.

**Peter Jones, ed.** *The French Revolution in Social and Political Perspective.* New York: Arnold, 1996. Pp. xv, 495. Cloth, \$59.95; ISBN 0-340-65291-8. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-340-65290-X.

In the current historiography of the French Revolution, the king is dead, but the succession is being hotly disputed--or, to borrow from Aristophanes, perhaps whirl is now king. The classic interpretation of the Revolution, inspired by Marxism and definitively articulated by Georges Lefebvre, was of the struggle between the decaying, feudal aristocracy and the ascending, capitalist bourgeoisie. For the last thirty years or so revisionists have chipped away at this view, noting the social mix among the revolutionaries and the complexities of their aspirations. Critics decry revisionism as the "new orthodoxy" or conservatism triumphant, but the revisionists, who take their various starting points from sources as diverse as Alexis de Tocqueville and Jürgen Habermas, offer no monolithic system, as Peter Jones's reader, *The French Revolution in Social and Political Perspective*, demonstrates.

Jones, Professor of French History at the University of Birmingham, has collected two dozen examples of recent scholarship to inform students, albeit advanced ones, of the