

Robert Aldrich admirably succeeds in presenting the reader with a manageable survey, albeit largely from the French perspective, of an enormous topic and literature. Although his efforts to include all the empire may make sections of the book seem a bit encyclopedic in tone, *Greater France* is a competent synthesis, a fine introduction.

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Bruce F. Pauley. *Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini: Totalitarianism in the Twentieth Century.* Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1997. Pp. xvi, 290. Paper, \$14.95; ISBN 0-88295-935-2.

Much of the history of Europe in the twentieth century can be viewed from the perspective of the actions taken by or in opposition to the ideas, ambitions, and policies of Josef Stalin, Adolf Hitler, and, to a much lesser extent, Benito Mussolini. Bruce Pauley's *Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini* is accordingly a salutary reminder of how a few determined individuals, when given almost unlimited power to impose their ideologies on others, have altered the fates of millions of ordinary individuals, not to mention the very nations they led. Stalin's economic policies between 1930 and 1937 caused the deaths of fourteen million Russians, forced the relocation of tens of millions more, and produced a chronically underproductive Soviet agricultural sector, no doubt a factor contributing to the collapse of the USSR. The war unleashed on 1 September 1939 by Adolf Hitler resulted, according to Gerhard Weinberg, in a world-wide death toll of approximately sixty million, of whom far more were civilian than military, and in the Holocaust, in which some six million Jews perished, and it left Germany and much of Europe in ruins.

Pauley, a much-published specialist in Austrian history, begins this comparative history with the Russian Revolution of 1917 and concludes with the collapse of communism in 1989. Each chapter within this chronological framework has a topical focus, and topics include: the ideological foundations of totalitarianism; the seizure of power by each dictator; the dictators' personalities and policies; totalitarian economics; propaganda, culture, and education; family values and health; totalitarian terror; pre-war diplomacy and the beginning of World War II; total war, 1941-1945; and the collapse of Soviet totalitarianism. Reflections on the totalitarian legacy conclude the book. Typical chapters offer a brief introduction, individual accounts of the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, and Fascist Italy, and a brief--often too brief--comparative analysis. Pauley opens with an analysis of totalitarian ideology, rightly stressing its overriding importance for Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini. He also identifies one of the many inherent contradictions of twentieth-century totalitarianism by arguing that Stalin, Hitler, and Mussolini "enjoyed their greatest successes when they were not driven by ideological considerations and met their greatest catastrophies precisely at those times when they sought to put their most extreme ideological concepts into practice."

Hitler, Stalin, and Mussolini blends a brisk narrative of twentieth-century totalitarianism with an insightful comparative analysis of the Soviet, Nazi, and Fascist regimes. Pauley also summarizes key historical controversies, ranging from the debate over the connection between German anti-Semitism and Hitler's ascent to power and subsequent persecution of the Jews to the matter of Soviet or American responsibility for the origins of the Cold War. In each instance, he is judicious and sets out the parameters of the debate without undue entanglement in scholarly minutiae. However, since he neither identifies the historians involved nor cites the relevant literature, he leaves students wishing to know more about such controversies in need of additional guidance. On a more positive note, students seeking information about specific topics or wishing to undertake further reading will find assistance from an excellent index and an up-to-date bibliographical essay of works in English. Overall, there is much to commend in this history of twentieth-century totalitarianism, and it is suited especially for upper-division classes, since it assumes a basic factual familiarity with recent history.

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Gerhard Weinberg. *Germany, Hitler and World War Two: Essays in Modern German and World History.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995. Pp. 347. Cloth, \$24.95; paper, \$14.95.

Probably the most prominent academic historian who has written extensively on the Second World War is Gerhard Weinberg of the University of North Carolina. His *A World in Arms: A Global History of World War Two* has distinguished itself from many other "one volume" histories of the Second World War by its high level of scholarship and use of archival materials. Similarly, although primarily known as a leading diplomatic historian, Weinberg's work is unique in the way it skillfully combines military, diplomatic, and social history.

Weinberg's ability is reflected in his recently published collection of essays, *Germany, Hitler and the Second World War*. The essays cover a wide range of subjects, following a rough chronology from the end of the First World War to the rise of the Nazi party and continuing through 1945. The main focus of Weinberg's work is the role of Germany in the Second World War, and the essays provide many intriguing and thought provoking conclusions concerning the role played by the Germans in that conflict. Given Weinberg's interest in the "global" dimensions of the Second World War, however, there is also significant attention given to the other major powers, especially in their relations to Nazi Germany.

Weinberg's essays would be of significant use in an educational environment. Although he writes on a high level, if used properly the essays can be very helpful and interesting to students. The essays are so skillfully argued and written they would serve