

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

as an excellent tool to illustrate to students how the historical discipline works. For example, the first essay, "The Defeat of Germany in 1918 and the European Balance of Power" presents a very different interpretation of the Versailles conference. Most texts accept it as fact that Germany's treatment at the Versailles conference had a major impact in causing the Second World War. Weinberg, however, argues that the opposite is true and that the Germans got off rather easily at the Conference and escaped severe punishment. Arguments such as this help show students the value of interpretation in history and the nature of historical writing.

Another pedagogical use of the book is the manner in which Weinberg blends military history into wider historical trends. Sometimes regarded as a less important field than other areas of history, Weinberg integrates military history into a broad perspective. For example, in the essay "Hitler and England, 1933-1945," Weinberg uses the fact that increased production of German JU-88 bombers is illustrative of Germany's worsening diplomatic relations with England. Similarly, Weinberg demonstrates the connection between naval construction and foreign policy in several essays. Given that many students are interested in military history, Weinberg's essays offer a way to integrate this discipline into a wider curriculum.

Finally, teachers interested in presenting a balanced view of the Second World War would find Weinberg's book extremely useful. He presents the war from the point of view of the Germans and his accounts of German war plans, strategy, commanders, and the role of Hitler are all fascinating. The essay "German Plans for Victory, 1944-1945," for example, is an excellent account of how even when the outcome of the war appeared to be a foregone conclusion, the Germans still anticipated and had several plans to achieve victory. For students familiar with learning about the war from the Allied point of view, reading Weinberg's essays would be both interesting and beneficial.

Weinberg is a scholar of high order and his essays reflect this. While it would probably prove difficult for students to read the entire book, individual essays would be of great use to them. Similarly, for teachers interested in examining new perspectives on old material, Weinberg's book is an invaluable resource.

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Anne Orde. *The Eclipse of Great Britain: The United States and British Imperial Decline, 1895-1956.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996. Pp. viii, 262. Cloth, \$49.95; ISBN 0-312-16140-9. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-312-16141-7.

Bernard Porter. *The Lion's Share: A Short History of British Imperialism 1850-1995.* London & New York: Longman, 1996. Third edition. Pp. xviii, 413. Paper, \$21.40; ISBN 0-582-08943-3.

British scholars of the empire seem much more obsessed with the decline of British imperial glory than their more dispassionate American colleagues. Indeed, some such as