

photograph. The author has been so ill-served by his editors in the tables and maps as to merit comment. One table lists total colonial population in 1770 as 1,046,000. Six pages later we learn that there were approximately 2.5 million Christians and Jews in the colonies in 1780, a remarkable 139 percent increase in ten years. Both a chart and a map of slave states omit Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Another map, titled "Historical Areas of the United States," merely shows the states and some major cities (Boston is "Bolton," Tampa is "Tempa," and Cleveland appears twice). A Civil War map has more misspellings, misplaces Bowling Green, mislabels Missouri as Montana, and has Norfolk on the Del-Mar-Va peninsula and Fort Sumter far up the coast from Charleston.

Where Jenkins does make an unusual departure is in his emphasis, well articulated throughout, on political and religious dissenters and what he sees as their significant role in American history--be they dissident Puritans, Mormons in the mid-nineteenth century, utopians, urban workingmen protesters both before and after the Civil War, radicals in the World War I era, unemployed protesters during the Great Depression, and others. He draws an excellent comparison between the political and social extremism of the 1840s and the 1960s. And he closes by placing the recent events in Waco and Oklahoma City in the context of earlier American traditions of radical individualism and resistance to organized government. While this intriguing theme fails to make up for the other weaknesses of this book, it might prove profitable for the "general reader" of whom we so often speak.

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William Sterne Randall and Nancy Nahra. *American Lives*. New York: Longman, 1997. Vol. I: To 1876. Pp. ix, 244. ISBN 0-673-46986-7. Vol. II: Since 1877. Pp. ix, 261. ISBN 0-673-46987-5. Each paper, \$23.06.

Randall and Nahra collaborate productively on two volumes of short biographies composed of diverse historical figures covering the span of North American history. Although the sketches vary as much as the importance of the individuals considered, each offers a window on an important dimension of the American experience. An established biographer, Randall has been recognized for his work on Benjamin and William Franklin, Benedict Arnold, and Thomas Jefferson, all of which find their way, Arnold indirectly, into the first volume. While not sharing authorship, dedications and acknowledgments in Randall's previous works strongly suggest that Nahra actively participated in the preparation.

From Christopher Columbus to Charlotte Forten of the Reconstruction era, the first volume presents significantly different case studies. Each short biography consists of an introductory statement, a portrait, a sketch of about ten pages, a set of four helpful questions, and a bibliography of key secondary works. Randall and Nahra explore

fifteenth-century Europe and its extension into the New World through the life of Christopher Columbus. They likewise use other lives as manifestations of particular periods. Anne Hutchinson's struggles offer special insights into seventeenth-century New England. The lives of Teedyuscung and Tom Quick, Indian leader and Indian hater, direct attention to the Pennsylvania frontier in the 1700s. The authors develop various fascinating insights into late eighteenth-century America and its revolutionary struggle through those who experienced victory, such as Benjamin Franklin, Tadasz Kosciuszko, Abigail Adams, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson, as well as those who knew only crushing defeat such as William Franklin and Margaret Shippen Arnold (Mrs. Benedict Arnold).

Moving chronologically, the authors take up the nineteenth-century frontier via the lives of Tecumseh and Sam Houston, while considering Charles Finney in conjunction with religion and the Second Great Awakening. The Forten family, specifically James and his granddaughter Charlotte, reflect the African-American experience, while Harriet Beecher Stowe's life gives focus to mid-century abolitionism. Randall and Nahra consider America's traumatic mid-nineteenth-century clash from three perspectives--those of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and the remarkable administrator, Annie Turner Wittenmeyer.

Numerous themes, movements, and ideologies are considered by way of certain special individuals who took part in them. For example, Randall and Nahra use Hutchinson, Abigail Adams, Charlotte Forten, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Annie Wittenmeyer to present different female roles. The sketches of Teedyuscung, Tom Quick, and Tecumseh reconstruct the terrible difficulty and the tragic dilemma of Indian leadership. Religion is considered through Hutchinson and Charles Finney, while science and learning are presented in the lives of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson. The authors use the lives of Washington, Kosciuszko, Lincoln, and Lee to develop the topics of political leadership and war.

Sandwiched in the second volume between sketches of such literary figures as Mark Twain and Toni Morrison are twenty-two biographies of equally differing historical figures. Randall and Nahra use Twain, Sitting Bull, and Myra Colby Bradwell, along with Andrew Carnegie, Thomas A. Edison, W.E.B. DuBois, and Eugene V. Debs, to consider the late nineteenth century, even though the latter four were certainly prominent twentieth-century figures as well. Starting with Woodrow Wilson, the authors move through the century with Presidents Harry Truman and Richard Nixon, concluding with such contemporary figures as Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara; the first female Supreme Court justice, Sandra Day O'Connor; and Nobel prize winning author, Toni Morrison.

Probably more thematic than the first volume, in the second volume Randall and Nahra develop a pluralistic America. They consider the trials and tribulations of Native Americans through the dramatically different yet equally depressing experiences of Sitting Bull and Louis Sockalexis, an Abenaki Indian from Maine and first Native American professional athlete (baseball). They take up the nation's industrial and technological transformation with Carnegie and Edison and the subsequent labor strife through the

courageous struggle of Debs. The lives of Dubois, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Morrison provide a rather comprehensive consideration of the African-American experience, while Randall and Nahra explore issues of ethnicity through case studies of Iva Toguri (one of the Tokyo Roses) and César Chávez. Along with consideration of Myra Bradwell, the first woman licensed to practice law, the authors illustrate the varied and changing roles of women through the lives of Theda Bara, silent film star; Margaret Sanger, birth-control crusader; Eleanor Roosevelt; Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*; O'Connor; and Morrison. Cultural change fueled through the medium of Bara's motion pictures is also explored via the life of Jack Kerouac, the guru of the Beat Generation. Contrary to many who in constructing collections of short biographies place heavy emphasis on politicians and generals, Randall and Nahra consider only George Patton and Huey Long in addition to the three presidents.

Through a look at these 44 personalities of note, the authors move American history from abstract generalities to tangible specifics--from movements and ideologies to moments of personal glory and individual despair. The specific case studies infuse typical textbook narratives with meaningful individual experiences to which readers can relate. Relying on careful research largely in secondary works, Randall and Nahra skillfully move the narratives along through lively description frequently emphasizing personal relationships. The authors do occasionally offer some interpretive judgment and regularly establish a strong behavioristic relationship between those character-shaping experiences of youth and the direction of adult lives.

Although there are a few factual errors--the 54th Massachusetts Infantry under Colonel Robert Shaw did not take Fort Wagner as is strongly suggested and Wilberforce University is not in northern Ohio--the sketches provide both a significant amount of interesting personal information and a challenge to myths such as those relating to Lincoln's early poverty and Jefferson's "fascination" with Sally Hemings. Thus, students, especially high school juniors and seniors as well as college freshmen and sophomores, should find these portraits fascinating and a link to the big historical picture. Instructors, even the old hands, those around from Morrison and Commager days, should discover a few new anecdotes as well, to liven up their lectures.

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Clyde A. Milner II, ed. *A New Significance: Re-Envisioning the History of the American West*. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996. Pp. xiii, 318. Cloth, \$49.95; ISBN 0-19-510047-6. Paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-19-510048-4.

For the past two decades, historians have produced a voluminous "new" Western history. This anthology of essays covers some important topics of that history, while also considering the need for newer perspectives on the historical significance of the West. Although these essays came from a conference on the centennial of Frederick Jackson