

confrontation likely. The generals gave the politicians no cause for major concessions over the assassination of the Archduke, as they had in the earlier crises.

Herrmann's marriage of military, diplomatic, and political history is superb, and it goes far to clarify the issues that led up to World War I. His research is extensive and multilingual. His writing is excellent, making his book desirable for anyone studying the background to the war from the upper division of undergraduate work through post-graduate researchers. The book is not, however, as the publisher seems to intend, particularly desirable as a general text. *The Arming of Europe and the Making of the First World War* is a superior work of historical scholarship, but it is too narrowly focused for use in any but an upper-level class emphasizing the background to World War I.

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**Harry Browne. *Spain's Civil War*. London & New York: Longman, 1996. Second edition. Pp. 146. Paper, \$14.53; ISBN 0-582-28988-2.**

The Spanish Civil War, once famed but now relatively forgotten at the end of the twentieth century, still attracts coverage. Harry Browne, a British professor of Spanish history and literature, has prepared for Longman's Seminar Series in History a narrative historical text of slightly over a hundred pages, accompanied by 27 pages of translated documents on key episodes and actors in the civil war. There is also a short section identifying key personalities, a glossary, and a short bibliography.

The work is synthetic, often based upon the historical work of Paul Preston, certainly one of the finest historians on the topic but also a blunt northerner who does not mince words. I long for more Spaniards writing their own history, since everyone in the UK has written a book about the Spanish Civil War, it seems.

Still, I was impressed by this series to such an extent that I looked over some of the other volumes. They are all of great use to classroom teachers, particularly if there is a need to select special topics to emphasize in survey courses on modern history. British issues predominate, Stuart and Tudor England in particular, but there are also volumes on Early Modern Europe and Europe, 1789-1918. Their texts are short enough to be read quickly, and their documents give some basic sense of the period or topic.

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