

comprehensive and accessible classroom texts on U.S. foreign relations. The fourth edition reflects similar attributes, yet includes coverage of the last years of this century, making the current edition still more useful in the classroom than its predecessors. Unfortunately, the editorial effort in the book, particularly in the later chapters, seems to have waned, as evidenced by typographical errors. These shortcomings, however, are not Schulzinger's own. His work is first rate.

This book would be particularly appropriate as a text for diplomatic history or twentieth century American politics courses. Its breadth and readability make it useful for students in advanced secondary or undergraduate college or university courses. Perhaps the most advantageous element of this book for a teacher is that it introduces a plethora of topics that could be expanded through classroom lectures, discussions, or research projects. It will continue to serve, as have previous editions, as a standard work in the history of the foreign relations of the United States.

Montana State University-Billings

Matthew A. Redinger

Robert H. Abzug. *America Views the Holocaust, 1933-1945: A Brief Documentary History.* Boston & New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 1999. Pp. xv, 236. Cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 0-312-21819-2.

Renata Polt, trans. and ed. *A Thousand Kisses: A Grandmother's Holocaust Letters.* Tuscaloosa & London: University of Alabama Press, 1999. Pp. xvii, 210. Cloth, \$29.95; ISBN 0-8173-0930-6.

The contemporaries of the Holocaust are often divided into three categories: victims, perpetrators, and bystanders. While each category is problematic, this nonetheless is a useful approach for teachers working with students just beginning to study the Holocaust. Each category can be studied through primary sources, although, as Raul Hilberg has pointed out, each raises its own particular problems. (See Hilberg's essay in Michael Berenbaum and Abraham Peck, eds., *The Holocaust and History*, Indiana University Press, 1998, for a discussion of "Sources and Their Uses.") The two books under consideration here present primary source documents related to the experiences of victims and bystanders.

A Thousand Kisses presents the letters of Henriette Pollatschek, who was born in Bohemia in 1870. Although she was not a practicing Jew, and indeed converted to Catholicism in 1939, Henriette--known to her family as Mamina--was classified as a Jew by the Nazi conquerors of Czechoslovakia. She suffered from the increasing legal and social discrimination against Czech Jews before being transported to Treblinka in October 1942.

The story of Henriette Pollatschek illuminates two relatively neglected areas of the Holocaust experience: the fate of the elderly and obstacles to emigration. The two

are clearly related: the decision to leave one's homeland was obviously more difficult for older Jews. Mamina's letters are filled with the problems faced by elderly would-be immigrants. What should she take and what should she leave behind out of a lifetime's possessions? Could she master a new language? How could the details of her estate be managed? Most poignant are her fears of becoming a burden to younger family members. The complex bureaucratic obstacles to emigration are also illustrated in Mamina's dealings with tax officials, Gestapo officers, and foreign consulates.

While *A Thousand Kisses* is an important addition to Holocaust literature, there are a few problems with the book's possible use as a supplementary text. As in any volume of letters, there are numerous obscure family details that must be explained by the editor, Renata Polt, Pollatschek's granddaughter. Other references also demand extensive explanation, to the point that editorial comments at times nearly overwhelm the letters. Students will be tempted to skip the letters entirely and read only Polt's interpolations. *A Thousand Kisses* lacks both the narrative continuity of memoirs and the daily details and personal insights of diaries.

Robert Abzug, editor of *America Views the Holocaust*, is professor of history and American studies at the University of Texas and author of *Inside the Vicious Heart* (1985), an acclaimed study of American reactions to reports of the Nazi concentration camps in 1945. In *America Views the Holocaust* Abzug has assembled over fifty documents on American responses to Nazi persecution and genocide against the Jews. These include newspaper and magazine articles, letters, official documents, and cartoons. Each source is accompanied by Abzug's brief, informative introductions and comments. The book also includes a chronology, bibliography, and list of "Questions for Consideration."

Abzug's selection of documents is excellent, and student readers will be surprised and at times shocked. The anti-Semitism of such figures as Father Charles Coughlin, while contemptible, is at least understandable at some level. But students will find more difficulty in coming to terms with such writers as Robert E. Asher, a self-described "German-American Jew," who seems at times in his 1933 article to blame the Jews themselves for their suffering. The cool indifference reflected in the minutes of the Bermuda Conference (1943) should also occasion discussion and reflection.

America Views the Holocaust ends with a brief essay by Abzug on historical interpretations of the American response. If a second edition of the book is called for, Professor Abzug might consider including brief excerpts from such works as David Wyman's *The Abandonment of the Jews* (1984) and William Robinstein's *The Myth of Rescue* (1997). This would give student readers the chance to see how historians can come to radically different conclusions and to compare those conclusions with a selection of primary sources.

Both *A Thousand Kisses* and *America Views the Holocaust* belong on reading lists for courses on the Holocaust. Abzug's book would also be of interest for courses

in twentieth-century American history. Either book could serve as a supplementary textbook in Holocaust courses, although *A Thousand Kisses* probably would not be a first choice for most instructors.

Broome Community College

Lorenz J. Firsching

S.J. Ball. *The Cold War: An International History 1947-1991.* London & New York: Arnold, 1998. Pp. xii, 260. Cloth, \$49.95; ISBN 0-340-64546-6. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-340-59168-4.

Now that the Cold War is "history," a spate of works are appearing that take advantage of newly available documents and memoirs. Teachers of twentieth-century diplomatic history and post-1945 U.S. history need, in particular, a solid text that lays out the basics of the Cold War as well as indicates the scope of scholars' opinions.

S.J. Ball, who teaches at the University of Glasgow, essays to fill this need for a usable text and bring a European perspective to what too often is seen in bipolar fashion. Unlike Ronald Powaski who begins his treatment of the Cold War in 1917 in *The Cold War* (1997), Ball starts in 1947 when a cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union became a component of the system of international relations. After an all too brief nod to the historiography of the Cold War in the introduction, Ball treats the Cold War in five chronological chapters. His approach is essentially a factual one that eschews the various debates that would have swirled about interpretations of the Cold War. Although the focus is on the two superpowers, he devotes more attention to the role of the major European powers and the Peoples' Republic of China than is common in many works. Each chapter has extensive endnotes and the book concludes with a brief list of suggested readings.

Ball's work follows a conventional approach to chronology, starting with what he calls the search for preponderance from 1947 to 1952, proceeding through stages: theories of victory (1953-1962), the balance of power (1963-1972), the period of stress on the international system brought on by developments in the third world and strategic weapons from 1973 to 1984, to an end game lasting from 1985 to 1991. Each chapter describes the American and Soviet world views of the period as well as particular problems and areas of stress. A constant found in each chapter is Germany. Ball is able to make use of recent work dealing with the development of nuclear weapons in both the U.S. and U.S.S.R. in examining the political impact of these weapons. The Korean conflict as well as the Vietnam war are brought into the picture as they influenced and were influenced by superpower diplomacy. Ball's observation that after 1965 American Cold War policy became inverted as it became a means to victory in Vietnam rather than the Vietnam war providing a means for pursuing global objectives might not set well with all scholars, but it is an important point nonetheless.