

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.

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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.

Ball's *Cold War* does not have the authoritative sweep of John Lewis Gaddis's *We Now Know*, nor does it justify a particular position in Cold War historiography as does Gaddis, but it provides a solid factual introduction to the Cold War for upper-division undergraduates. Although a valuable text, Ball's work cannot carry a course devoted to the Cold War; other more specific works are needed. In particular a fuller treatment of the historiography of the Cold War than is provided in the introduction would be helpful because of the diversity of scholarly interpretations.

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