

their very survival, required them to oppose the expansionist states. Thus, the war came from Germany's expansionism (Italy was no threat by itself), which the threatened nations finally confronted. That set of causes does not relate directly to World War I, so Bell is refuting the Thirty Years War thesis, although he admits that the preconditions of events might go back to 1914-1918. In brief, war was bound to come in the late 1930s unless Germany limited its expansionism, which was not likely.

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Charles G. Cogan. *Charles de Gaulle: A Brief Biography with Documents*. Boston & New York: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1996. Pp. xii, 243. Cloth, \$45.00; ISBN 0-312-12804-5. Paper, \$12.95; ISBN 0-312-10790-0.

The Bedford Series in History and Culture has produced a good book for history classes, although not a perfect one. Charles G. Cogan's study of Charles de Gaulle is organized in two parts. The first two-thirds of the book is a chronological narrative with a good, if markedly sympathetic, summary of de Gaulle's views. The remainder is a collection of documents organized around the same themes: saving the nation, reorganizing the state, foreign relations, and legacy. According to Cogan, de Gaulle restored France's sense of worth after the 1940 collapse, preserved French identity during the Cold War despite U.S. demands for solidarity, enabled France to survive the Second World War and the Algerian War, and ended the debilitating right-left split in French politics by establishing a presidency more powerful than Parliament. Furthermore, he failed to "de-Atlanticize" NATO and the Common Market, impeded European integration for 20 years, and transformed French foreign policy by creating an alliance with Germany. The documents, which Cogan carefully selected, capably translated, and introduced with students in mind, are excellent, and the maps, study questions, and suggested readings in English are useful, too. Throughout the book there are good explanations following the mention of historical characters and events, though some are in inconvenient notes at the end of chapters.

Some Cogan expressions, like "prudential symbiosis" might confuse students. And his interpretation can be a bit mystical, as when he says de Gaulle sensed the perception in the country that he was getting too old to lead and "whether consciously or not, arranged his own-forced-abdication."

The author refers to the French Revolution of 1789 frequently, but his grasp on that complex era is questionable. Ignoring economics, war, and intrigue, he blames both the Reign of Terror and the advent of Bonaparte on the idea that supreme power could be vested in a national Parliament.

The author has mastered de Gaulle's published works, which account for most of his endnotes, and uses them to present his case, but his background is unusual for an author in a series "designed so that readers can study the past as historians do." Cogan, who was in the CIA for 37 years before earning a Ph.D. in public administration, is a policy analyst, not a historian. He concentrates on de Gaulle's view of events, writing little about context or major historical themes. There are very few references to unpublished sources or to the work of other historians. Cogan usually accepts de Gaulle's memoirs without hesitation or warning to student readers about the generally self-serving nature of memoirs. De Gaulle's personality, including his phenomenal ego, emerges more clearly from the documents than from Cogan's analysis. Indeed, Cogan shares the general's conservative viewpoint, and, like him, sometimes fails to distinguish between French interests and Gaullist interests. Use this book, but use it judiciously.

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Victoria Bissell Brown, ed. *Jane Addams, Twenty Years at Hull House, with Autobiographical Notes*. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999. Pp. xii, 276. Cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 0-312-21817-6.

Jane Addams is one of the most important figures of the Progressive movement, embodying many of the virtues and conflicts of this complex period of American history. A social activist and political commentator, Addams helped to create a theory of social reform and to found the practice of modern social work. She had pronounced opinions about the responsibility of both society and individual to help others. In this edition of *Twenty Years at Hull House*, editor Victoria Bissell Brown places both the author and the book in proper historical context, giving readers a fuller understanding of both.

This book presents a stark, often heart-wrenching, account of life in the Chicago neighborhoods surrounding Hull House. Addams unabashedly discusses controversial issues like urban hunger, prostitution, unsafe working conditions, and tenement housing. Her narrative gives readers insight into the lives, hopes, and dreams of the urban poor in a way that few contemporary accounts match. Yet the book also tells an interesting story of Addams's life, as well as her motivations for becoming involved in social uplift. It chronicles her transformation from a bright, middle-class student at Rockford Academy into a social crusader and advocate for the powerless. In this way, the book not only gives insight into Addams's own life, but the experiences of countless other progressive reformers.