

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 There are very few references to unpublished sources or to the work of other historians.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.

College of the Ozarks

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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.

Addams's book is more a political treatise than a pure autobiography. Brown argues that the poignant vignettes by which Addams described her experiences at Hull House had three purposes. First, descriptions of heart-wrenching conditions sought to inform readers about the true social and economic conditions of the industrial working class. Secondly, Addams used these stories to juxtapose the harsh social conditions with the success of Hull House programs in giving immigrants new social and economic opportunities. Lastly, Addams used the narrative of her autobiography to argue that a nation enjoying the fruits of both democracy and economic prosperity had a responsibility to help the less fortunate achieve full social and economic integration in American society. In short, by changing the cultural environment of the industrial working class, reformers could help individuals break out of the poverty and drudgery of their daily lives.

Victoria Bissell Brown has produced a volume that gives students insight into the life and views of one of the Progressive period's leading figures. Her biographical sketch of Addams skillfully places the reformer in both historical and historiographical context. This book should garner a broad appeal, and would be a worthy addition to any course on the Progressive period, modern America, women's history, or the history of social reform movements. It also whets reader appetites for Brown's forthcoming biography of Jane Addams.

Mars Hill College

Richard D. Starnes

**David W. Blight & Robert Gooding-Williams, ed. *The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Du Bois. Boston & New York: Bedford Books, 1997. Pp. xii, 287. Paper, \$9.99; ISBN 0-312-09114-1.**

*The Souls of Black Folk* by W.E.B. Du Bois is the classic explanation of racial bifurcation in the United States. The book is about the twoness of being black, trying to take advantage of what is good in the status quo while at the same time taking advantage of not being part of the status quo. Du Bois points out that a veil covers the bifurcation.

Coping with injustice, whether real or perceived, is something all humans do. When Du Bois wrote, "The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color line," he included everyone. The problem of the color line is not limited to color. Du Bois himself had European (Dutch) and African (unknown) ancestry. Du Bois uses the metaphor of a veil to describe coping with the problem. When he wrote in 1903, educated people were relatively familiar with the Bible passage from Hebrews 10:19-20 that draws together flesh and the veil. The veil analogy also draws from such similar analogies as Plato's notions of a shadow play on cave walls and the widow's veil. Du