

networks with a wide range of Americans from white liberals and socialists to Harlem intellectuals and activists (including Malcolm X), from Trotskyites to Freedom Riders. Things came to a head in an astonishing showdown in Monroe in 1961 when Williams and family escaped and went into exile, first in Cuba, where he and his wife Mabel broadcast their "Radio Free Dixie" into the United States, and then in Vietnam and China. Williams returned to the U.S. in 1969 and largely chose to lead a quiet life in rural Michigan, finishing an unpublished autobiography just before his death.

The straightforward narrative, really more political history than biography, would appeal to undergraduates and through its powerful images and stories draw them into the larger questions the author seeks to illuminate. Tyson presupposes a knowledge of the Civil Rights movement, so it would need to be supplemented with other readings--and consideration of the level of students accordingly. Teachers will certainly find rich material here for lectures and lively discussions. Cogently argued, Tyson's work nevertheless leaves open questions about leadership strategies, gender issues, and the performative aspects of Black Power in the media-drenched 1960s. A comparative look at the SNCC experience would also be fruitful. A fine overview condensed by the authors is in *The Journal of American History* (September 1998).

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David Mayers. *Wars and Peace: The Future Americans Envisioned, 1861-1991.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. Pp. viii, 184. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-312-22770-1.

Between war and peace is a twilight land of aims, ideologies, dreams, and popular longings that the participants in the fighting hope to carry into the ensuing post-war period. People need these justifications to endure the sacrifices of lives and treasure and the compromise of ideals that are the necessary costs of war. The failure of post-war settlements to realize these aims often results in a general disenchantment at war's end.

In *Wars and Peace: The Future Americans Envisioned, 1861-1991*, David Mayers analyzes the ideas that Americans, across the political and social spectrum, have wanted to implement in the era that follows five major U.S. conflicts (or national security crises as Mayers categorizes them): the Civil War, the War of 1898, the First and Second World Wars, and the Cold War. *Wars and Peace* is a thoughtful and well-written reflection on the history of the ideas that failed to take hold after the end of each of these crises.

Mayers's approach is rather straightforward. First, he reviews the gamut of responses to the crisis. This is a particular strength of the book, for he manages to capture the essential points of all positions. He follows with an examination of the national leadership's notions of the post-crisis political situation. Each section ends with a consideration of the post-war reality. This approach gives the reader a good impression of what happened generally: how the variety of post-war visions, often derived from domestic political values, failed to be implemented.

His treatment of the first four crises contains few surprises. In the First World War, for example, he relates how Wilson's New World moral fervor broke up on the shoals of European political reality. In World War II, Mayers contends that the U.S. populace was cooler to FDR's vague war aims. For veterans, their restrained, yet optimistic attitude towards the post-war world might have been affected more by the passage of the G.I. Bill than by anything else.

Mayers's treatment of the Cold War is more complex than the preceding crises. This is because of that struggle's length and lack of resolution by combat between the two main protagonists. Though there were flashpoints that could have escalated into general hostilities, the Cold War remained, in its basic form, an arrangement of international relations between two general alliances, along with a third group of neutrals. At the time, it was largely accepted that this system was permanent. This attitude might have prevented the American political imagination from setting post-Cold war aims. The logic of the Cold War subverted domestic intellectual thought, created a burdensome national security apparatus, and spread the conflict into regions only marginally concerned with its ideology--Southeast Asia, for example. It was no wonder that, after the Soviet Union collapsed, the United States has struggled to develop a coherent strategy.

This book would be a good addition to university seminars at the graduate and undergraduate levels. High school honors and advanced placement classes would find this book interesting, though it requires a nodding acquaintance with intellectual, political, and social trends in American history since 1865.

National Security Agency

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Brenda Stalcup, ed. *Women's Suffrage*. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 2000. Pp. 256. Paper, \$14.96; ISBN 0-7377-0325-3C.

In selecting women's suffrage as a "turning point in world history," Greenhaven Press has, itself, made an important statement. The enfranchisement of more than fifty percent of the American electorate has helped transform women's lives and American politics. This collection of essays underscores the significant