

locating the Irish question within the imperial context and in examining its effects on party politics. Davis also excels in analyzing the impact on national party politics of continued political decentralization at the constituency level in such legislation as the County Councils Act of 1888. His treatment of the New Liberalism in the early twentieth century is superb, and he is able to devote attention as well to such significant if elusive movements as National Efficiency. World War I is, of course, the great divide that produced an enhanced electorate and a far different society, whose concerns about unemployment and security would accelerate the growth of the state. The reader's patience is sometimes tested, but ultimately rewarded, by Davis's careful examination of the Conservative and Labor governments' economic policies of the 1920s and the Tory-dominated National Government presided over by Ramsay MacDonald. The intricate three-party politics of the twenties, Pugh argues, was unable to sustain the pre-war mix of free trade and welfare reform, while the post-1929 slump provided conditions favorable for the Chamberlainite protectionism proposed three decades earlier. Thus, "a Tory statism" triumphed. Ironically, as Davis persuasively argues, the same difficult conditions spawned the expansionism of totalitarian states on the continent that was immune to "the unedifying policy" so naively persisted in by Baldwin and Neville Chamberlain. "The failure of appeasement exacerbated the danger of war," Davis concludes. And that war would in turn result in the end of the "Conservative state" that had been constructed in the preceding half-century.

Davis's is a stimulating book for undergraduates and advanced graduates and provides a rich store of material for teachers of modern British history. Pugh's is the broader and more general introduction, but each volume is highly recommended. Davis provides an especially useful bibliography.

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Frank McDonough. *Hitler and Nazi Germany*. New York and Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1999. Pp. vii, 152. Paper, \$11.95; ISBN 0-521-59502-9.

Peter Neville. *The Holocaust*. New York and Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1999. Pp. vii, 103. Paper, \$11.95; ISBN 0-521-59501-0.

The National Socialist period in Germany (1933-45) is of central importance to any understanding of modern Germany—indeed, to twentieth-century Western and world history as a whole. The complex and diverse economic, social, and political aspects of these twelve years have occupied historians for decades and no doubt will continue to do so. Nevertheless, despite the central importance of the Nazi experience, until now instructors and undergraduate students of the period have had very few comprehensive, yet brief, one-volume studies that are appropriate for survey-level

courses. Frank McDonough, Senior Lecturer at Liverpool John Moores University, fills one of these gaps with his *Hitler and Nazi Germany*, while Peter Neville, Senior Lecturer in Twentieth-Century European History at the University of Wolverhampton, fills another with *The Holocaust*.

In *Hitler and Nazi Germany*, McDonough has produced a clearly written and well-organized book that incorporates the findings of important recent scholarship. McDonough attempts to place Hitler's role and his motives "within a broad-ranging social, economic and international framework." In this the author largely succeeds; while Hitler is prominent in McDonough's interpretation, the reader is made aware that the German leader operated "within the complex power structure of the Nazi state."

Chapters are organized around a specific theme, beginning with Hitler's early life, military career, and political activity through the seizure of power in 1933; in this chapter as in all others, different topics are clearly divided by subheadings, making it easier for students to approach the material. Other chapters cover economics, social and cultural developments, resistance inside Germany, foreign policy, war, and mass murder. The final chapter, "The Verdict of the Historians," introduces students to several important, and current, debates about the nature of the National Socialist regime: among them the ongoing debate as to Hitler's role within the Nazi state and the different approaches to studying the Holocaust.

Hitler and Nazi Germany provides students and instructors alike with several extras that increase its overall value and make the text a more user-friendly volume. In addition to a glossary of German terms, a chronology, and a bibliography with suggestions for further reading in English, each chapter also features a "document case study," with excerpts from a number of primary source documents and accompanying questions. Because of the brief length of the selections (usually no more than a paragraph) the sources could easily be read in class and be used to facilitate discussion; likewise they could serve as the basis for an out-of-class written assignment. The questions encourage students to read the source document and then form their own opinions.

Peter Neville's *The Holocaust* is organized in the same way as *Hitler and Nazi Germany*. Chapters are centered around specific themes, and there is a "document case study" at the conclusion of each chapter. Neville's interpretation, written in a straightforward and readable style, places the Holocaust against "the historical backdrop of European anti-Semitism in earlier centuries." The author clearly suggests in the first chapter the connection between this anti-Jewish prejudice and the Third Reich. Subsequent chapters explain the importance of anti-Semitism in the early years of the National Socialist party, and the escalating pressure on the Jewish population once Hitler came to power in 1933. Students will benefit from this discussion.

Other themes covered by Neville include the death camps themselves and the post-1945 legacy of the Holocaust. Further contributing to an international perspective

are chapters dealing with foreign reaction to the Holocaust and the varied wartime experiences of Jews outside Germany.

Yet this book has several shortcomings that should be mentioned. First among these would be brevity: *The Holocaust* is only 103 pages, meaning that sufficient depth is at times a problem. For example, chapter seven, on Holocaust deniers, attempts to summarize this important debate and several of the more prominent authors in just four pages of text; while it is certainly necessary to expose students to this topic, it simply requires more space than this to do it justice. Also the bibliography: It is brief on most of the book's themes, at times suggesting only one or two titles for further reading, and leaves out some important current scholarship.

How might an instructor best use these books? The brief length of the texts means they are logical choices for freshman/sophomore level courses on twentieth-century European history, world history, or Western civilization; instructors searching for texts for upper-level courses or an offering on modern Germany, however, will likely desire more in-depth coverage of the subject matter. This is especially true of the Neville volume. Any decision ultimately would depend on the level of the class and the overall goals for the course.

These two volumes are also effective as sources for lecture material. Especially instructors responsible for twentieth-century European or world history survey courses who are not specialists in the areas of German history or the Holocaust will find these books helpful in organizing main ideas for their class lectures. Main themes, as well as conflicting viewpoints, are neatly laid out and explained, with enough detail to serve as a useful basis. Important interpretations are also nicely summarized: In McDonough's chapter dealing with the Holocaust, for example, the positions and arguments of Christopher Browning and Daniel Goldhagen are succinctly explained and put into a broader context. All in all, these two volumes represent welcome additions to the available options for instructors teaching various survey-level courses in twentieth-century history.

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Christopher Clark, Nancy A. Heweitt, Roy Rosenzweig, Stephen Brier, Joshua Brown, and Eric Foner, eds. *Who Built America? Working People and the Nation's Economy, Politics, Culture, and Society*. New York: Worth, 2000. Vol. I: From Conquest and Colonization through 1877. Pp. vii, 721. Paper, \$43.90; ISBN 1-57259-302-4.

Nelson Lichtenstein, Susan Strasser, Roy Rosenzweig, Stephen Brier, and Joshua Brown, eds. *Who Built America? Working People and the Nation's Economy, Politics, Culture, and Society*. New York: Worth, 2000. Vol. II: Since 1877. Pp. vii, 786. Paper, \$43.90; ISBN 1-57259-303-2.