

Because each essay is short and well-grounded in primary sources, this book could easily be used in graduate or undergraduate courses on the Civil War and Reconstruction, women's and gender studies, or as a text to show how to research and present archival findings. It would also be useful for finding lecture material, as the stories presented are interesting and in-depth, perfect for holding a class's attention. The only fault with the book is that, like many collections of essays, it lacks a coherent focus. The authors studied very different families and their struggles, in different parts of the Confederacy and at different times. There is no unifying framework to allow the reader to compare the situations presented in the various studies.

Texas A&M University

Jean A. Stuntz

**John Baylis.** *Anglo-American Relations since 1939: The Enduring Alliance.* Manchester, UK & New York: Manchester University Press, 1997. Pp. xvi, 272. Cloth, \$59.95; ISBN 0-7190-4778-X. Paper, \$24.95; ISBN 0-7190-4779-X.

**Stephen Ryan.** *The United Nations and International Politics.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000. Pp. xiv, 209. Cloth, \$55.00; ISBN 0-312-22824-4. Paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-312-22825-2.

Several recent works on late twentieth-century international relations conclude in the 1980s with the end of the Cold War. While this is a natural stopping point for many studies, one of the most important projects for historians and teachers in the future will be integrating post-Cold War issues into the understanding of how world diplomacy operates. Foreign policy scholars cannot ignore the impact Cold War actions had on global developments following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. Both books under consideration here attempt to begin this process by connecting the international concerns of the 1990s to what has happened on the world stage since World War II.

John Baylis's collection of primary documents examines the diplomatic "special relationship" between Britain and the United States from 1939 through the Clinton presidency. Treating the concept of the "special relationship" alternatively as a description, a diplomatic tool, and a myth, Baylis suggests that the ties binding the two nations together have usually tightened during political and military conflicts and loosened in peacetime. Nevertheless, he emphasizes that the paradigm has been used differently by the United States and Britain throughout their histories, and that other factors, such as the personal relationship between the President and the Prime Minister, have also had a significant influence on the strength of the bond.

Baylis begins with a brief chronology of the major events in American and British relations since 1940. He then provides in his introduction a concise historiography on the field of Anglo-American relations, as well as a discussion of

some of the current debates about the interpretation of documents. The following nine chapters, which detail the various stages in the political relationship between Britain and the United States, are the focus of his work. Each chapter begins with a short summary of the time period and then includes six to eleven primary sources, each preceded by a short analysis of the important issues in each document. The readings cover published and unpublished government documents, the writings of key political figures, and newspaper editorials from both the United States and Britain. Baylis concludes with an annotated reading list and an extensive bibliography.

Baylis does an outstanding job at presenting the "special relationship" as more complex and less homogeneous than usually depicted. His selection of materials for inclusion indicates a superb understanding of the most significant and interesting issues in Anglo-American relations. There is, however, greater emphasis on British sources than on American writings, especially in the last chapters of the book. This imbalance leads one to wonder if the "special relationship" has been more important to Britain than to the United States. While this document reader is appropriate for inclusion in undergraduate classes, the narrowness of the topic perhaps limits its use to courses in twentieth-century American foreign policy, British history since 1945, or international relations of the West. In addition, the lack of any questions to consider at the end of the chapters might make it difficult for instructors who are not experts on the topics to encourage constructive discussion.

Stephen Ryan's examination of the United Nations explores the changing roles the organization has played in resolving international problems from the late 1940s through the 1990s. While other studies of the UN have either lambasted it as ineffectual or hailed it as the central institution in international affairs, Ryan argues that the real position of the organization lies in the middle of these two viewpoints. Relying primarily on a large number of secondary sources, as well as the writings of UN and American leaders, government documents, and UN committee reports, Ryan suggests that the ability of the United Nations to act effectively as an agent of collective security, an international peacekeeper, and a defender of human rights has been linked historically to the rise and fall of the Cold War. At the height of the Cold War hostilities between the United States and the Soviet Union made it difficult for the organization to accomplish much on a global scale. However, as these tensions receded, the UN experienced a number of successes internationally.

Ryan opens with a description of the foundations of the United Nations, its relationship to the League of Nations, and its initial design. Chapters two through four, the core of his study, focus on the actions of the UN during the Cold War. While the collective security role of the international organization was severely limited because of the inability of the Security Council to act forcefully on issues, due to the rivalry between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., certain UN Secretaries General were able to carve out a role for the association in some peace and security situations. Ryan's last two chapters examine the role of the United Nations since the end of the Cold War, and the

organization's efforts to deal with international economic and social issues. Although the UN began the 1990s optimistic about its ability to intervene in world disputes, it experienced a series of dramatic failures in Yugoslavia, Somalia, and Rwanda. Ryan argues that the United Nations's missteps during this period were due to its inability to adapt to the realities of the post-Cold War world. On the other hand, in the area of human rights and environmental protections, the UN has been much more successful.

Ryan does a good job in this concise history of touching on the major issues and contractions that impact the work of the United Nations. His conclusion is especially valuable in its listing of the current problems that plague the organization and its suggestions for future UN reforms. The most problematic aspect of Ryan's study, however, is its reliance on the Cold War as the explanation for the United Nations's successes and failures. While there is no doubt that the Cold War had a tremendous impact on the ability of this and other international organizations to function effectively throughout the late twentieth century, Ryan himself points out other factors, including the growing influence of the third world, that might also account for the UN's accomplishments and disappointments. In addition, this theory does not offer a satisfying rationalization of why economic and social agreements could prosper during the same period that peace and security measures floundered. The Cold War analysis falls most short, however, as an explanation of why the United Nations suffered such massive setbacks in the 1990s.

Despite this problem, *The United Nations and International Politics* provides a fine overview and exploration of the concerns surrounding world government after World War II. Its style and clarity make it accessible to undergraduates and advanced high school students. It could be used as a supplementary text in an international government course, a world history course, or a transnational diplomacy course, since it raises several theoretical issues that should stimulate discussion.

Berry College

Christy Jo Snider

**Tamara L. Roleff, ed. *The Atom Bomb*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, Inc., 2000. Pp. 272. Paper, \$14.96; ISBN 0-7377-0214-1.**

This is a collection of primary and secondary sources about the development of the first atomic bomb and some of its results. The first chapters show the development of the bomb from its conception to its successful test at the Trinity site in New Mexico. The editor includes articles that relate to the debate about using the bomb. We hear from Secretary of State Henry Stimson, military analyst Hanson Baldwin, and historian Gar Alperovitz. The most personal and moving accounts are by Atsuku Tsujiko, a Hiroshima survivor, and Charles Sweeney, the pilot of *Bock's Car*, who dropped the second bomb on Nagasaki. A short chapter tries to show the bomb's effects on lives