

limitations on policymakers' actions, and its belief that collective security meant someone else would always shoulder the burden of defense. The Germans, she contends, believed their expansion would provoke no reaction, refused to acknowledge defeat and its consequences, and followed a consistently nationalist program that had the advantage over the contending and shifting aims of the other great powers.

Marks's central contention is that the postwar treaties provided only the illusion of peace because "the only effective means of enforcement was force and, after four years of war, nobody would risk the possibility of more war." As she sees it, "... the irreducible problem ... was that Germany demanded equality while France insisted upon security, but if Germany gained equality, France had no security since Germany was larger and fundamentally stronger." In that situation, she asserts, often Britain "would present an elaborately worded scheme to paper over the divide."

Marks's view of Gustav Stresemann, so often depicted as a "good German," is rather negative. To her he is a "great German nationalist dedicated to restoration of the Reich's power" who did more than any "man in the Weimar republic ... to destroy the Versailles Treaty," and whose accomplishment of the evacuation of the Rhineland "burst the bonds of pent-up German nationalism and paved the way for Hitler." But it is the public preference for illusion that arises in her conclusion: "It is not only ironic but also tragic that, aside from Hitler's aggressive aims and his single-minded pursuit of them, the major factor forcing Europe toward the Second World War was the intense yearning of the Western democracies for peace, however illusory."

Marks explains even confusing events clearly, and this book will be useful in many different courses. Occasionally, however, her vocabulary might puzzle some undergraduates. She uses a few German words, many French and Latin phrases, some British spellings, and a few uncommon terms. Indeed, graduate students seeking a brief review might be the ideal audience for this excellent book.

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**Keith Eubank.** *The Origins of World War II.* Third ed., The European History Series. Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 2004. Pp. XI; 196. Paper, \$14.95; ISBN 0-88295-228-5.

*The Origins of World War II* is the third edition of a work that first appeared in 1969. The book is organized in a chronological fashion, beginning with the aftermath of 1918 and ending with a detailed chapter on 1939 and the outbreak of war. There is an informative chapter that introduces readers to the post-1918 European reality, with an explanation of what the major powers sought during and after Versailles. In his discussion of the interwar period, Eubank places emphasis on the importance of events such as the 1936 Rhineland reoccupation, British-German naval negotiations, and the 1938-39 crises over Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Danzig. He explains the policy of

appeasement, and points out how and why British and French officials arrived at this strategy for dealing with Hitler's escalating demands.

This book's strength is its focus on standard political and diplomatic history; Eubank states at the outset that his purpose is to "examine the policies, the outlook, and the experience of the statesmen and politicians who wrestled with Adolf Hitler's demands, as well as the military, political and economic conditions of their nations." Thus, for example, readers learn much of the thoughts and actions of British politicians Anthony Eden, Edward Halifax, and Neville Chamberlain, and their counterparts in Paris, Berlin, and Moscow. Eubank relies heavily on published volumes of foreign policy documents from Britain, France, and Germany to illuminate the high-level negotiations that culminated in Germany's September 1939 attack on Poland and the Allied declaration of war. On the other hand, we learn little of how civilians anywhere reacted to events, and the varied impacts of the 1930s economic depression on European politics only rarely are integrated into the narrative. Readers would be advised to use Eubank in conjunction with other books in order to gain a balanced assessment of the two decades prior to 1939.

How useful is this book for teaching about twentieth-century European history? Readable and relatively brief, *Origins of World War II* is most suitable for high school juniors and seniors and lower-level college undergraduates. Advanced college students would need to supplement this text with additional readings to better understand factors beyond foreign diplomacy and a British and French focus. There is an extensive bibliographical essay, but much of the scholarship is outdated and important recent titles are missing. But this book has another possible use: Because of its topical and chronological format, both high school and college faculty might find Eubank useful for background reading or preparing lecture material. "Mussolini and Ethiopia" and "The Popular Front and the Spanish Civil War" are examples of sections that work well in this regard.

In sum, this revised edition of Eubank's book could be a supplementary text in European history survey courses at high school and college levels. But it has its limitations, and faculty should carefully consider what other sources would be needed to provide a balanced interpretation of the crucial years between 1918–1939.

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**Laura Marvel, ed. *The Salem Witch Trials*. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 2003. Pp. 144. Cloth, \$28.70; ISBN 0-7377-0823-9.**

*The Salem Witch Trials*, edited by Laura Marvel, is part of Greenhaven's Opposing Viewpoints series. The goal of this series is to elucidate various interpretive positions on controversial historical subjects, and serve both as a vehicle for and an example of scholarly debate. This latest addition to the series on the Salem witch trials